



SHARIF TO LAUNCH PH-II OF PAK-CHINA ECONOMIC CORRIDOR **WORLD**



3 NAXALITES KILLED IN CHHATTISGARH'S ENCOUNTERS **NATION**



KEEPING MEN OF LETTERS ALIVE AND RELEVANT **SPECTRUM**

65.9% IN FIVE PHASES: EC'S ABSOLUTE POLL DATA OUT **BACK PAGE**



## At 64.2%, Haryana turnout lower than '19, Sirsa leads with 69%; Delhi records 58%

### 57.8% voters cast ballot in Karnal Assembly byelection where CM Saini is in the fray

**BHARTESH SINGH THAKUR & ADITI TANDON**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH/NEW DELHI, MAY 25** The voter turnout in Saturday's polling for the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana crossed the 64 per cent mark. The polling figure in the state stood at 64.2 per cent late at night.

The seven Lok Sabha constituencies of Delhi witnessed 58.7 per cent voter turnout, as per data released at 11.45 pm, against 60.52 per cent recorded in 2019 when the BJP had swept all seats.

Haryana Chief Secretary TVSN Prasad said, "The elections have passed off peacefully across the state."

According to the office of the Haryana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), the final figures will be updated on Sunday. In the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, the voter turnout was 70.34 per cent.

In the bypoll to the Karnal Assembly seat, from where Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is contesting, the turnout was 57.8 per cent till 8 pm when the data was last updated. In 2019, the turnout here was 52.4 per cent.

"The final figures will be known by Sunday," said Manish Kumar Lohan, an HCS officer coordinating with the media on behalf of the CEO's office.

CEO Anurag Agrawal said, "Whosoever was standing till 6 pm was allowed to vote. We are hopeful of the voting percentage touching last time's figure."

The highest polling percentage was recorded in the



Women queue up to vote in the Uklana Assembly segment of Hisar district on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO: ASHOK KUNDU

**POLLING HIGH IN RURAL AREAS OF HARYANA**  
The polling was high in rural areas in Haryana where resentment against the BJP was visible. The urban areas witnessed low voting.

FARIDABAD WITNESSES LOWEST VOTER TALLY	
Seat	Voting %age
Ambala	67
Bhivani-M'garh	65.3
Faridabad	60.2
Gurgaon	60.7
Hisar	64.7

**INDEPENDENT MLA DIES SHORTLY AFTER VOTING**  
Independent MLA from the Badshahpur Assembly constituency in Gurugram Rakesh Daultabad died a few hours after voting. Daultabad, who passed away due to a cardiac arrest, was a popular youth leader.

Sirsa parliamentary constituency at 69.1 per cent where BJP's Ashok Tanwar and Congress' Kumari Selja are locked in a tight battle. It was followed by the Ambala Lok Sabha seat with a 67 per cent turnout. Here, Congress' Varun Chaudhary is pitted against BJP's Banto Kataria.

Kurukshetra recorded 66.3 per cent voting. Here, BJP's Naveen Jindal, Indian National Lok Dal's Abhay Chautala and Aam Aadmi Party's Sushil Gupta are locked in a triangular battle.

The lowest turnout was witnessed in the Faridabad constituency at 60.2 per cent. Gurgaon recorded 60.7 per cent vote. Political observers are keenly watching the outcome in the Karnal Lok Sabha seat where former CM Manohar Lal Khattar is facing a tough fight from young Congress leader Divyanshu Budhiraja. The voter turnout here was 63.2 per cent.

Caste polarisation was palpable in the polling at Hisar from where three from Devi Lal's clan — Ranjit Singh,

Sunaina Chautala and Naina Chautala — and Congress' Jai Prakash are locked in a battle. It witnessed 64.7 per cent turnout.

Another key seat is Rohtak, a stronghold of former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda. It witnessed 64.6 per cent polling. In the district-wise tally, Yamunanagar recorded the highest turnout at 71.4 per cent. It is a part of the Ambala Lok Sabha seat. It was followed by Fatehabad district at 69.9 per cent, which is a part of the Sirsa Lok Sabha seat.

The voting was boycotted at Sunderpur village in Jind and Majri Tappu village in Yamunanagar. Agrawal said, "The DCs concerned had gone to convince voters. They were raising development issues."

The highest polling in the state was recorded in the 1977 Lok Sabha elections at 73.26 per cent followed by the 1967 General Election when the turnout was 72.61 per cent. In the 2014 poll, the voting percentage was 71.45.

As many as 223 candidates, including two union minis-



People wait to cast their vote at a polling station in Anantnag, AN.

## 61% vote in Phase-6; WB reports clashes

**ANIMESH SINGH**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, MAY 25**

West Bengal recorded the highest turnout of 79.4 per cent in the sixth phase of the Lok Sabha elections, while Uttar Pradesh saw the lowest at 54 per cent, as per the EC data. The Anantnag seat in Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a 28-year-high polling of 54.30 per cent.

A voter turnout of 61.2 per cent was witnessed as the polling was held for 58 seats across eight states and union territories on Saturday, according to the preliminary data released by the EC at 11.45 pm. Sporadic incidents of violence and complaints of EVM tampering in West Bengal were reported.

In 2014, when Narendra Modi first led the BJP to power at the Centre and became the PM, the BJP had won 46.4 per cent votes in Delhi against AAP's 33.1 per cent and Congress' 15.2 per cent. In 2019, the BJP's vote share in Delhi soared to 56.7 per cent followed by the Congress' 22.6 per cent and AAP's 18.2 per cent.

After West Bengal, Odisha figured second in terms of the voter turnout at 69.5 per cent. Delhi and Haryana recorded a turnout of 58.7 per cent and

**AT 54.3%, ANANTNAG HITS 28-YEAR HIGH**

The Anantnag-Rajouri parliamentary constituency recorded its highest voter turnout in 28 years with 54.3% of voters exercising their right to franchise till 7.45 pm. The earlier highest figure was 50.2%, which was recorded in 1996.

64.2 per cent, respectively. In the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, while the BJP and its NDA allies had won 44 seats, the Congress failed to win any of these seats.

With the culmination of polling in the six phases so far, voting is now over in 28 states across 485 seats (excluding Gujarat's Surat seat where the BJP candidate had received a walkover). Polling is also over for 105 Assembly seats in Odisha. The state has a total of 147 Assembly seats.

Eight seats in Bihar, one in J&K, all 10 in Haryana, four in Jharkhand, all seven in the NCT of Delhi, six in Odisha, 14 in UP and eight in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## CEC: J&K Assembly poll process to kick off soon

**TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE**

**NEW DELHI, MAY 25**

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar on Saturday said the poll panel would soon initiate the process for holding the Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to mediapersons after casting his vote during the sixth phase of polling in the national capital, he said, "The turnout in the Lok Sabha poll in J&K has been heartening. They deserve their government and we will initiate the process for holding the Assembly elections very soon."

On March 16, while announcing the schedule for the Lok Sabha poll, Rajiv Kumar had said the Assem-

Terms turnout in LS elections in UT heartening

bly elections in the union territory could not be held simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections from the security point of view. "The Election Commission stands committed to holding the Assembly poll in J&K soon after the Lok Sabha elections," Rajiv Kumar had said.

The Assembly elections in J&K will bolster the government's standing on the global stage, especially with the West being critical of it over the increasing hiatus in the democratic process. It will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Oppn doing *mujra* to woo vote bank: PM; keep post's dignity, says Priyanka

**NEW DELHI, MAY 25**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday used a "mujra" analogy to accuse the opposition INDIA bloc parties in Bihar of practising vote bank politics, triggering sharp reactions from Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who urged the PM to "maintain the dignity of his post".

Addressing a rally in Patliputra Lok Sabha constituency's Bikram, the Prime Minister reiterated his pledge to "not let the Congress and other INDIA block parties snatch the constitutionally mandated reservations for the SCs, STs and the OBCs".

"I want to give a guarantee to the families of the SCs, STs and the OBCs that till Naren-



Narendra Modi

dra Modi is alive, your rights cannot be snatched. For Modi, the Constitution and Baba Saheb Ambedkar are supreme. The INDIA bloc may remain enslaved and keep performing 'mujra' to please their vote banks, but I won't let your rights be taken away," PM said.

**'UNCALLED FOR'**

"No PM has ever used such words for opposition leaders. Isn't it PM's responsibility to maintain the dignity of the post? He has forgotten that he represents the country

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, CONGRESS LEADER

At another public meeting in Bihar's Karakat, the PM said the people had been hurt by the alleged remarks against migrants made by leaders of the Congress in Punjab and Telangana, DMK in Tamil Nadu and the Trinamool Congress in West

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## A first: Gandhis vote for non-Cong nominee in New Delhi

### AAP's Somnath Bharti Oppn face in seat that once elected first woman CM Sucheta Kripalani

**ADITI TANDON**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, MAY 25**

For the first time in their political careers, the Congress' top brass—Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra—on Saturday voted for a non-Congress nominee in the New Delhi parliamentary constituency where they are registered voters.

Apart from former Congress presidents Sonia and



Rahul Gandhi takes a selfie with mother Sonia after voting in New Delhi.

and her son Rahul, general secretary Priyanka, her husband Robert Vadra and chil-

dren Raihan and Miraya also voted for a non-Congress candidate. Under a seat-shar-

ing arrangement, the Congress conceded the VVIP constituency too AAP, which fielded Somnath Bharti.

The sacrifice of the New Delhi and other segments to AAP as part of the pre-poll deal continues to cause anxiety in the Congress ranks even though Sonia justified it saying the 2024 election was about "saving the Constitution and democracy". Congress cadres, however, don't take the visuals of

Gandhis voting for AAP as heartening, especially because AAP has grown at the expense of the grand old party in Delhi.

Right from the start, senior Delhi Congress leaders had wanted this seat, along with North East Delhi where late three-term Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit had finished second in 2019 behind BJP's Manoj Tewari, to stay with the Congress. In the New

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Women queue up at a poll booth in Uklana Assembly segment of Hisar on Saturday. PHOTO: ASHOK KUNDU

# Lower turnout, 'silent voters' to keep BJP, Congress candidates on toes

## May turn the tide either way in Haryana, claim political observers

**PRADEEP SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**CHANDIGARH, MAY 25** The BJP and the Congress leaderships are at their wits' end in the backdrop of lower voter turnout in the Haryana Lok Sabha elections today. This coupled with 'silent voters' have only added to the anxiety of the BJP and the Congress candidates, who are locked in a neck-and-neck contest on all 10 Lok Sabha seats.

Though the leaders of two major political parties put up a brave face, saying the lower voter turnout would ultimately prove to be beneficial for them, observers say 'silence' of the voters could turn the tide either way.

While in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the voting percentage was pegged at over 70 per cent, this time the polling percentage has been reported to be over 65 per cent. Subhash Barala, convener of BJP Lok Sabha poll management committee, however, claimed the Modi factor and the unprecedented development undertaken by the BJP in the state would help the party retain all 10 seats.

"The lower or the higher voter turnout does not matter for the party. The Modi magic and a divided Congress in the state will ensure that Haryana contributes 10 seats to the 400 seats of the BJP at the national level. There is absolutely no anti-incumbency against the BJP government," Barala asserted.

The observers said usually a lower voter turnout ensured that there was less



Women show ink marks after casting their votes outside a polling booth in Panchkula. TRIBUNE PHOTO: RAVI KUMAR

### NO ANTI-INCUMBENCY, CLAIMS BJP

"The Modi magic and a divided Congress will ensure that Haryana contributes 10 seats to the 400 seats of the BJP. There is absolutely no anti-incumbency against the BJP government." Subhash Barala, CONVENOR, BJP LOK SABHA POLL MGMT COMMITTEE

### MAJOR ISSUE, INSISTS CONGRESS

"The anti-incumbency, especially against the BJP government in the state, was a major election issue and people have voted overwhelmingly for the Congress in the parliamentary polls." Vijay Bansal, CONGRESS LEADER

### DROP IN POLLING PERCENTAGE

While in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the voting percentage was pegged at over 70%, this time the polling percentage has been reported to be over 65% in the state.

# Heatwave impacts polling in Hisar's rural, urban areas

**DEEPENDER DESWAL**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**HISAR, MAY 25** Extreme hot conditions took a toll on the polling process in the Hisar Lok Sabha constituency as the turnout of electors remained less than expected in both rural and urban areas. The low turnout has given jitters to all political parties and candidates in the constituency.

Mayyara village, which is known as the centre of agitations in Hisar, registered a low turnout of voters. At 1 pm, when a team of 'The Tribune' reached Booth Number 148 in a government senior secondary school, around 20 persons, including ten women, were standing in a queue. According to the polling staff, the booth, out of 1,234 voters in all — the highest in a single booth in the village — around 411 voters, including 197 men and 214 women, exercised their franchise on the voting day. There was no waiting period at the two other booths in the same school.

Joginder Singh, a former

sarpanch, said hot conditions had dampened the voting fervour in the villages. "The polling majority took place before 11 am and after 4 pm. There was hardly anyone for around three hours during the afternoon," he said. Darshna Devi, a woman voter, said though many women had visited the booth early in the morning, she was busy with some work so she got late. "Now, at 12.30 pm, I found no other woman to accompany me to the booth, so I came here alone," she said.

Anoop Singh, another resident, said there was hardly any voter visible at the polling booth in Litani village of the Uklana Assembly segment from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.

In Gangwa village, the polling percentage started picking up at 4 pm in the afternoon. Pawan Kumar, a polling agent of a political party at a booth in Gangwa village, said the polling slowed down after 11 am in the morning and had picked up at 4 pm. "The temperature reached about

45 degree Celsius in the afternoon. It seems that the people opt to take a break in the afternoon. There was a peaceful atmosphere and no discrimination inside the polling booth." Vinod Kumar, another voter who was standing in the queue in the polling station in Gangwa village, said it seemed there was a direct contest between the two main political parties. "I have voted with the hope to form a fair and growth oriented government at the Centre," he said.

In Hisar's Jawahar Nagar polling booth, there was no waiting period for voters at 10 am. "I went after inquiring whether there was any queue or not. It took just five minutes for me to cast my vote," said a government official.

The turnout report at 10.30 pm showed that the Hisar Lok Sabha seat had 32.6 per cent voting turnout. The Nalwa Assembly constituency reported 35.8 per cent voting, which was the highest in the Hisar Lok Sabha constituency.

# 64.6% vote in Rohtak's high-stakes battle

**RAVINDER SAINI**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**ROHTAK, MAY 25** Barring some glitches in the functioning of EVMs, no major incident was reported in the Rohtak parliamentary constituency, where the BJP and the Congress are locked in a direct contest.

Stakes for both parties are high here. The fate of 26 candidates, including BJP's Dr Arvind Sharma and Congress's Deepender Hooda was sealed today.

A total 64.6 per cent of voters exercised their franchise in the nine Assembly segments of the constituency. The highest of 69.80 per cent polling was recorded in Meham segment followed by Garhi Sampla-Kiloi (68.7 per cent) and Badli (65.4 per

cent). Jhajjar witnessed 65.3 per cent turnout, Beri 64.9 per cent, Kalanaur 64.8 per cent, Kosli 64 per cent, Rohtak 60.8 per cent and Bahadurgarh 59.3 per cent.

Over 10 per cent people cast their votes in the first two hours. The turnout was 38.15 per cent at 1 pm and the polling slowed down due to sweltering heat conditions. The figure rose to 58.28 per cent at 5 pm.

Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Hooda along with his son Deepender and family cast their votes at native Sanghi village while local MLA Bharat Bhushan Batra exercised his franchise in Rohtak city. Arvind Sharma and Jhajjar Congress MLA Geeta Bhukkal cast their votes in Jhajjar city.

# Ind MLA, 47, Daultabad dies of cardiac arrest shortly after voting

**SUMEDHA SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**GURUGRAM, MAY 25** Amid the polls today, what came across as a shock to the state was the death of Independent MLA Rakesh Daultabad a few hours after voting.

The 45-year-old Independent MLA from the Badshahpur Assembly constituency in Gurugram, died due to a cardiac arrest. He was a popular youth leader and supported the BJP government. He is survived by his wife and two sons. He was cremated with state honours in his native village, Daultabad.

He was rushed to the Manipal Hospital in Palam Vihar here. "Rakesh Daultabad presented to the ER at 09:05 am with acute chest pain. The ECG, which was done immediately, showed ST elevation



Rakesh Daultabad

large myocardial infarction (extensive antero-lateral myocardial infarction). Just after the ECG, the patient had a massive cardiac arrest and he collapsed at 09:15 am. The cardiac massage was started immediately, which continued for 45 minutes. There was a recovery in the rhythm and blood pressure around 10:00 am, therefore a collective decision was taken immediately for the definite cardiac procedure. He was shifted to catheterisation lab. It was found that the main artery was 100 per cent occluded, which was opened, but due to refractory cardiogenic shock, he could not sustain and he revived in spite of all measures and was declared dead at 12:45 pm," read a statement issued by the hospital.

In the 2019 Assembly poll, he had secured victory from Badshahpur seat. Sharing his condolences on X, PM Narendra Modi wrote, "I am deeply saddened by the sudden demise of Haryana MLA Rakesh Daultabad ji. With his hard work and dedication, he created a distinct identity among people at a very young age. His demise is a big loss for the state's politics. May God give strength to his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti."

# Karnal turnout below 2019 LS poll figures

**PARVEEN ARORA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**KARNAL, MAY 25** The political fate of former CM Manohar Lal Khattar and BJP candidate for the Karnal Lok Sabha seat, along with 18 other candidates, were sealed today. Similarly, the future of CM Nayab Singh Saini and BJP candidate for the Karnal Vidhan Sabha seat, along with eight others, has also been locked in the EVMs.

Barring technical snag at a couple of booths, the polling remained peaceful. Despite intense heatwave, voters showed enthusiasm as youth, women, the elderly, and physically challenged people, especially in rural areas and some city booths, formed long queues to cast their votes.

The Karnal Assembly bypoll saw a voter turnout that sur-

passed the 2019 Assembly poll. The turnout was recorded at 57.8 per cent till 7 pm, compared to 52.37 per cent in 2019.

However, the voter turnout for the Karnal Lok Sabha seat fell short of the 2019 General Election. This time, the turnout was nearly 62.6 per cent till 7 pm, compared to 68.35 per cent in 2019. Experts considered scorching heat and less enthusiasm among urban voters as reasons for the low turnout.

Uttam Singh, DC-cum-District Election Officer, said the election was conducted smoothly: "Significant enthusiasm was observed among voters, especially youth and women," he said.

# In a first, women man Rohtak booths

**ROHTAK, MAY 25**

In the state's patriarchal society, where a majority of women cast their vote as per the preference of the men in their family, it was a surprise to see them manning polling booths for parties today.

At some places in Rohtak, women were seen not only preparing voter slips in tents outside the booths, but also performing the duty of poll agents.

They said when reservation for women in politics was being talked about, women would have to be proficient in booth-level management as well as leadership.

It was their maiden attempt as they went about managing polling booth numbers at Chhotu Ram Stadium here. They were also the polling agents there. — TNS

# Demand not met, Jind village boycotts polling

**JIND, MAY 25** The residents of Sunderpura village in Uchana Kalan subdivision of the district boycotted the polling today. The village has 1,630 votes.

The villagers were upset with the administration for many months regarding their demand to make the village a part of Narwana tehsil.

Lakhwinder Singh of the village said, "Earlier, our village was part of Narwana tehsil, but in 2017, it was shifted to Uchana tehsil. Uchana is about 22 km away from the village while Narwana is closer to us. Secondly, the entire 'khevat' (revenue record) of the village is joint, so when any person needs a record ('fard'), he has to take the fard of the entire village. It runs in 390 pages and the copy costs over Rs 4,000." — TNS

# 4 sisters, 91 to 104, showcase wonder of democracy

**SUNIT DHAWAN**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BHIWANI/MAHENDRAGARH, MAY 25** From first-time voters to nonagenarian, and even centenarian voters, besides physically challenged voters with crutches, inspired everyone as they celebrated the festival of democracy by casting their votes in the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Lok Sabha constituency.

Four sisters — Phoola Devi (101), Bhagwani Devi (97), Shekori Devi (95) and Lichhma Devi (91) — stood out as they came together to exercise their franchise at a pink booth set up at Loharu town.

Shakti Singh Siwach, a physically challenged voter, arrived at a booth in Bhiwani city on crutches to motivate residents. "Physical disability is no hurdle in casting one's vote. I could

Disability no hurdle in casting vote, remarks voter



Four sisters aged between 91 and 101 years at a pink booth in Bhiwani to cast their vote. PHOTO: INDERVESH DUHAN

have cast my vote from home, but I chose to come to the booth to inspire others," he said.

Pradeep Kumar, a bride-

groom of Ropar Sarai village in Mahendragarh district, who had to go to Rajasthan for his wedding, first went to a polling station at his village,

along with his family members. "Every vote is significant in a democracy. Hence, we decided to cast our votes before taking the 'baraat' to

Rajasthan," said Pradeep. Dubai-based Pawan Kumar, a resident of Ateli Mandi area in the same constituency, reached home a day before the date of polling to cast his vote. Meanwhile, BJP candidate Dharambir Singh, sitting MP from the constituency for two consecutive terms, went to cast his vote in his old Zen, which he considers his lucky charm.

Congress MLA from Tosham Kiran Choudhry, who had expressed her displeasure at being ignored and sidelined during the party's campaign, cast her vote along with her daughter and former Congress MP from the constituency, Shruti Choudhry.

The polling process in the constituency remained largely smooth and peaceful. As per official data, 57.26 per cent polling was recorded till the filing this report in the evening.

# Ambala voters defy heat, throng polling booths

**NITISH SHARMA**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**AMBALA, MAY 25** Braving the scorching heat, the elderly and women voters tumbled in large numbers in Ambala. Many aged voters were seen walking with difficulty, assisted by their family members and volunteers at polling stations.

About 67 per cent turnout was reported till 8.30 pm in the constituency. Dayawanti, a resident of Ambala Cantt, reached with his son on a two-wheeler to cast her vote. "I am 84, and this might be the last time I am voting, so I wanted to perform my duty," she said.

Phaggu Ram (76) of Dukekri village said: "I have never missed casting my vote. Though the weather was harsh and I wasn't feeling well, I wanted to vote."

Another resident of Dukekri village, Kanto Devi (74), who required a wheelchair at the polling station, remarked: "All should cast their votes and elect a good candidate for the development of the country as well as the village. At some polling stations, there were complaints of wheelchairs not being available, and missing names from voter lists.

Barring sporadic incidents of EVMs developing a technical glitch, the polling went off peacefully. At Mullana, a spat broke out between BJP and Congress workers near the polling station. After a Congress worker removed a cutout of PM Narendra Modi, the workers started manhandling one another. The police managed to control the situation.

# Open to talks with farmers: Goyal

## Says party will set up task force to eradicate drug menace

GS PAUL

AMRITSAR, MAY 25  
The BJP is open to holding dialogue with agitating farmers to resolve their issues, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said while campaigning for party candidate from Amritsar Lok Sabha seat Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Being one of the members of a Central Government panel that had held discussion with representatives of various farmers' unions earlier, he said the preliminary discussion between both the sides were held on a positive note, but could not reach any conclusion due to "miscommunication".

"I appeal to all farm unions to remove this miscommunication through dialogue. Our doors are open for farmers to hold discussions on farm issues. The BJP's priority has always been to strategise policies to safeguard farmers' interest but a section of farmers might be unaware of the factually correct picture or were misguided. We offered them enhanced MSP against their produce. During a series



Union minister Piyush Goyal in Amritsar on Saturday. VISHAL KUMAR

of meetings, suggestions emerged but the calculation with which they came up with, could adversely damage the farmers' interest, especially the Punjab farmers in future," Goyal said.

He also paid obeisance at the Golden Temple along with BJP leaders, including Maninderjit Singh Sirsa.

On the drug menace, he said the BJP intends to make Punjab a drug-free state. "We will set up a multi-dimensional task force involving security agencies to eradicate drugs from the state," Goyal said.

The Union minister said

India has been a developing country globally, and the BJP aims to make Punjab, especially Amritsar, to be part of this progress. He said the present government in the state has been a roadblock.

Giving an example, he said Punjab lagged to be a part of the PMMITRA (a multi-crore textile park scheme) as the state government could not revert with a concrete proposal for offering infrastructure for the project.

"It required at least 1,000 acres of land to set up a textile park to increase investment, promote innovation, create

job opportunities and ultimately make India a global hub for textile manufacturing and exports. The Punjab government did not send us a complete proposal on the basis of which it could be considered. The Tamil Nadu government furnished the requisite and got the project," Goyal said.

Striking an emotional cord, he recalled Operational Blue Star during the Congress rule in 1984. "On the other hand, the BJP, in view of Sikh sentiments, commemorated Gurburbs and 'Veer Bal Divas' on a global level and allowed international donations at Golden Temple through the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010," he said.

For Amritsar, Goyal said: "We want to establish good connectivity and logistics, provide infrastructure for international bilateral trade, and exploit the local skill of Amritsar to take their talent on the global level. This will boost the region's economy which was our goal." He also clarified that the Attari-Wagah trade was stopped from the Pakistan side.

# Income Tax raid at Batala Mayor's residence

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATALA, MAY 25  
Income Tax sleuths today raided houses of Batala Mayor Sukhdeep Singh Teja and seven others. Barring Congress leader

Teja, others have stakes in liquor business. Dera Baba Nanak MLA and Congress candidate for Gurdaspur parliamentary seat Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa termed the raids as "politically motivated".

Prominent liquor contractor Pappu Jayantipuria was also under the I-T scanner. Leader of Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa, ex-cabinet minister and Fatehgarh Churian MLA Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa and

Amritsar MP Gurjit Singh Aujla reached Jayantipuria's residence after getting the news.

IT teams reached the residences around 4am, and raids were on till the filing of this report.

# Maluka showers praise on PM

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BATHINDA, MAY 25  
As the campaigning enters the final lap in Punjab, senior SAD leader Sikander Singh Maluka today praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the work he had done for the Sikh community.

Maluka, who released a video message, said, "Numerous people will not agree with me, but I strongly feel that we should take up our issues with PM Modi. He will surely resolve all the matters. The PM repealed the three farm laws, waived GST on langar and opened the Kartarpur Sahib corridor."

However, Maluka remained silent on extending support



Police stop protesting farmers from reaching the venue of Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma's rally in Bathinda.

# Farmers detained ahead of Rajasthan CM's rally in favour of Hans Raj Hans

ARCHIT WATTS

MUKTSAR, MAY 25

The police today rounded up nearly 50 farmers who had gathered to lodge a protest near the venue of Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma's rally in favour of BJP candidate from Faridkot Hans Raj Hans at Bhallaiana village in Gidderbaha Assembly segment here.

The farmers claimed that they just wanted to lodge a peaceful protest near the venue and were empty handed, but the police bundled them in a police bus and took them away. "The BJP candidate will not get votes by doing theatrics that the farmers in Patiala tried to kill him. The farmers are lodging peaceful protests everywhere. However, the police are detaining

us," claimed the farmers.

Meanwhile, former Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal, who is yet to make a public appearance in Bathinda parliamentary constituency, attended the rally here today. He delivered a speech as well. Earlier, he had attended the rally of PM Narendra Modi in Patiala on Thursday.

Manpreet had lost the Assembly election from Bathinda in 2022. Earlier, in the day, he campaigned in favour of BJP's Ferozpur candidate Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi in Malout town.

During his speech, the Rajasthan CM lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and recounted the works done by him during his tenure as Prime Minister. He spoke in chaste Hindi.



# Akali Dal expels Adesh Partap

CHANDIGARH, MAY 25

After cold-shouldering senior leaders like Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president today expelled his brother-in-law Adesh Partap Singh Kairon from the primary membership of the party for indulging in anti-party activities.

A party spokesperson said a decision to this effect was taken by the party's secretary general Balwinder Singh Bhundur in consultation with senior party leaders, following a complaint from the SAD candidate from Khadoor Sahib constituency Virsa Singh Valtoha.

Kairon is married to Parneet Kaur, sister of Sukhbir Singh Badal, Adesh is the son of former Punjab CM Partap Singh Kairon, who had opposed the carving out of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana from Punjab.

Kairon has not been seen much in the activities of the party for a long time now. Valtoha said the party president has - by expelling Adesh Partap Kairon - given a strong message that no one was above party discipline. Kairon, a four-time MLA from Patti constituency, was allegedly not supporting Valtoha from the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha constituency. —TNS

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**ADMISSION NOTICE 2024-25**

**(A) PROGRAMMES OFFERED AT GNDU CAMPUS**

**POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (AFTER BACHELOR'S DEGREE)**

1. M.Sc. (2 years): Applied Chemistry (Pharmaceuticals)/Biochemistry (Specialization in Sports/Biochemistry/Biotechnology/Botany/Chemistry/Computational Statistics & Data Analytics/Economics/Environmental Sciences/Fashion Designing/Food Technology/Human Genetics/Mathematics/Microbiology/Molecular Biology & Biochemistry/Physics/Zoology)	9. M.A. (2 years): Business Economics/English/Education/Hindi/History/International Relations/Journalism & Mass Communication/Persian/Philosophy/Political Science/Psychology/Public Policy and Governance/Punjabi/Religious Studies/Sanskrit/Sociology
2. M.Tech. (2 years): Computer Science & Engineering/Electronics and Communication Engineering (Specialization Communication Systems)	10. M.Tech. (2 years): Infrastructure Planning/Urban Planning/Transport Planning
3. M.Ed. (GNDU Campus and Affiliated Colleges) (2 years)	11. Master of Pharmacy (Pharmaceuticals, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Pharmacognosy, Pharmacology) (2 years)
4. Master of Physiotherapy (Orthopedics) (2 years)	12. Master of Library & Information Science (1 year)
5. MBA (2 years) (with dual specialization)	13. LL.M (1 year)
6. MBA (2 years): Financial Management/Marketing Management/Human Resource Management/Finance	14. Master of Performing Arts in Vocal/Instrumental (2 years)
7. MCA (2 years)	15. Master of Hospital Administration (2 years)
8. M.Com. (2 years)	16. Master of Social Work (2 years)
	17. M.P.Ed. (2 years)

**Note:** The students will have an option of exit from the above mentioned Post Graduate Programmes after successful completion of 1st year of 2 years PG programme and will be awarded PG Diploma except for M.Sc (Biotechnology), Masters in Physiotherapy (Orthopedics), Master of Pharmacy, Master of Library & Information Science, LL.M, M.P.Ed., M.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering/Electronics and Communication Engineering/Infrastructure Planning/Urban Planning/Transport Planning) and M.Ed. The students will be awarded Master degree after successful completion of 2 years of PG programme.

**FIVE YEARS INTEGRATED UNDER-GRADUATE/POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (AFTER 10+2)**

1. M.Sc. (FYIP): Botany/Computational Statistics & Data Analytics/Chemistry/Economics/Human Genetics/Fashion Designing/Food Technology/Mathematics/Microbiology/Physics/Zoology	6. M.Tech. (Electronics & Communication Engineering) Specialization (Wireless Communication) (FYIP)
2. MBA (FYIP) (with dual specialization)/MBA Finance (FYIP)	7. M.Tech. (Urban & Regional Planning) (FYIP)
3. MCA (FYIP)	8. M.Tech. (Computer Science & Engineering) (FYIP)
4. M.Com. (FYIP)	9. M.Tech. (Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Engg.) (FYIP)
5. M.A. (FYIP): Journalism & Mass Communication/Punjabi	10. Master of Hotel Management & Catering Technology (FYIP)/Tourism & Travel Management (FYIP)

**Note:** The students will have an option of multiple exits from the above mentioned Five years Integrated Programmes with Bachelor Degree after successful completion of 3 years and Bachelor Degree (Honours)/Bachelor Degree (Honours with Research) after successful completion of 4 years depending upon the fulfillment of conditions for various programmes at this stage as per university rules except for programmes at Sr. No. 6 to 10. In case of M.Tech Programmes at serial number 6 to 9, the students will have an exit option only after 4 years and will be awarded B.Tech Degree at this stage. In case of Master of Hotel Management & Catering Technology/Tourism & Travel Management at serial number 10 the students will have an exit option after 4 years and will be awarded Bachelor Degree (Honours)/Bachelor Degree (Honours with Research). The students will be awarded Master Degree after successful completion of 5 years of Five Years Integrated PG Programme.

**UNDER-GRADUATE PROGRAMMES**

1. B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (4 years)	11. B.Tech. (4 years): Computer Science & Engineering/Computer Engineering/Electronics & Communication Engineering/Electronics & Computer Engineering/Food Technology/Civil Engineering/Mechanical Engineering/Textile Processing Technology
2. Bachelor of Business Administration (Agri Storage and Supply Chain) (3 years)	12. Bachelor of Pharmacy (4 years)
3. B.Sc. (4 years): Dietetics & Nutrition/Medical Lab Technology	13. B.A. Social Sciences (4 years)
4. B.Sc. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) (4 years)	14. Bachelor of Physiotherapy (4 years)
5. Bachelor of Architecture (5 years)	15. B.Com. B.Ed (Integrated Teacher Education Programme - ITEP) (4 years)
6. B.A. B.Ed. (Integrated Teacher Education Programme - ITEP) (4 years)	16. Bachelor of Physical Education & Sports (3 years)
7. B.Sc. B.Ed. (Integrated Teacher Education Programme - ITEP) (4 years)	17. B.P.Ed. (2 years)
8. B.Ed Special Education (Multiple Disability) (2 years)	18. B.A. LL.B. (5 years)
9. LL.B (3 years)	
10. Bachelor of Library & Information Sciences Honours (1 year)	

**Note:** The students will have an option of exit from the Bachelor programme of B.Sc. in Dietetics & Nutrition/Medical Lab Technology at Sr. No. 3 and B.A. in Social Sciences at Sr. No. 13 after successful completion of 3 years and will be awarded Bachelor degree at this stage. In case of B.Sc. in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) at Sr. No. 4, the student will have multiple exit options and will be awarded Certificate, Diploma, B.Sc. after successful completion of 1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year respectively. The students will be awarded Bachelor (Honours)/Bachelor degree (Honours with Research) in relevant discipline as mentioned at Sr. No. 3, 4 and 13 after successful completion of four years depending upon the fulfillment of condition of various programmes as per University rules. In case of B.A.LL.B. at Sr. No. 18 the student will have an exit option only after 3 years and will be awarded B.A. (Laws) and after completion of 5 years, the student will be awarded B.A.LL.B. Lateral Entry in B.Tech. in all the programme mentioned at Sr. No. 11 except for B.Tech. in Computer Engineering is allowed as per university rules.

**PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS-GOVT. OF INDIA**

1. M.Sc. (Exercise & Sports Physiology) (2 years)	4. M.A. (Sports Psychology) (2 years)
2. M.Sc. (Sports Biomechanics) (2 years)	5. Master of Physiotherapy (Sports) (2 years)
3. M.Sc. Sports Nutrition (being run under CARI) (2 years)	

**Note:** The students will have an option of exit from the above mentioned Post Graduate Programmes after successful completion of 1st year of 2 years PG programme and will be awarded PG Diploma at this stage except for Master in Physiotherapy (Sports) at Sr. No. 5. The students will be awarded Master degree after successful completion of 2 years of PG programme.

**DIPLOMA & CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES**

1. PG Diploma (1 year): Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture/Computer Application/Entrepreneurship Development/Translation (Hindi/Sports Law/Yoga)	5. Certificate Programme (Part time) (1 year): Arabic/Chinese/French/German/Japanese/Persian/Russian/Urdu
2. Diploma: Computer Application (1 year)/French (1 year)/Food Production (1 1/2 year)	6. Short Term Programme (3 Months) in Communicative Chinese/French/German
3. Diploma (Part time) (1 year): Chinese/French/Russian/German/Persian/Urdu	7. Advanced Diploma (Part time) (1 year): French/Urdu
4. Certificate Programme: Bakery and Confectionary (CP&C) (6 Months)	8. Advanced Diploma (1 year): Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)/Guidance and Counselling

**(B) PROGRAMMES OFFERED IN REGIONAL CAMPUSES AT JALANDHAR/GURDASPUR**

1. M.Tech. (2 years): Electronics & Communication Engineering/Computer Science & Engineering	7. MBA (2 years) (with dual specialization)
2. M.Tech. (FYIP): Computer Science & Engineering/Electronics & Communication Engineering (Specialization Wireless Communication)	8. M.Com (2 years)
3. B.Tech. (4 years): Computer Science & Engineering/Electronics & Communication Engineering/Electronics & Computer Engineering	9. M.Com. (FYIP)
4. LLB (3 years)	10. MCA (2 years)
5. B.A.LL.B (5 years)	11. MCA (FYIP)
6. LL.M (1 year)	12. M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication (2 years)
	13. M.A. Journalism & Mass Communication (FYIP)

**Note:** 1. For programme at Sr. No. 7, 8, 10 & 12 the students will have an option of exit from the above mentioned Post Graduate Programmes after successful completion of 1st year of 2 years PG programme and will be awarded PG Diploma. The students will be awarded Master degree after successful completion of 2 years of PG programme.  
2. For programme at Sr. No. 9, 11 & 13 the students will have an option of multiple exits from the above mentioned Five Year Integrated Programmes with Bachelor Degrees after successful completion of 3 years and Bachelor degree (Honours)/Bachelor degree (Honours with Research) after successful completion of 4 years depending upon the fulfillment of conditions for various programmes as per University rules. The students will be awarded Master degree after successful completion of 5 years of Five Years Integrated PG Programme. In case of M.Tech Programmes (FYIP) at serial number 2, the students will have an exit option only after 4 years and will be awarded B.Tech degree at this stage and Master degree after successful completion of 5 years of Five Years Integrated PG Programme.  
3. For programme at Sr. No. 5 (B.A.LL.B) the student will have an exit option only after 3 years and will be awarded B.A. (Laws) and after completion of 5 years the student will be awarded B.A.LL.B.  
4. Lateral Entry in B.Tech in all the programmes mentioned at Sr. No. 3 is allowed as per University rules.

**Online Registration and application**

1. **Online registration:** Online registration is open since 08.05.2024 for admission to the above Programmes of Study for the Academic Session 2024-25.  
2. **For Admission to (A) Courses Offered at GNDU Campus,** interested candidates may visit [www.gnduadmissions.org](http://www.gnduadmissions.org) or <https://online.gndu.ac.in> (Admission portal) and for Admission to Programmes (B) Offered at Regional Campuses at Jalandhar and Gurdaspur, interested candidates may visit [www.gndurcjal.in](http://www.gndurcjal.in) (for R.C. Jalandhar) and [www.gnduregsp.in](http://www.gnduregsp.in) (for R.C. Gurdaspur) for online registration and admission of Foreign Nationals/NRI Students are available in the online prospectus.  
3. The details regarding registration fee, filing of application forms, admission schedule and admission of Foreign Nationals/NRI Students are available in the online prospectus.  
4. Candidates who have appeared in the qualifying examination but their result is yet to be declared can also apply for registration and are eligible for entrance examination and admission provisionally. However, their admission will be confirmed only after submitting the result for successful completion of qualifying examination.  
5. The admission to LLB (3 years) and B.A.LL.B (5 years) will be made through State Level Counselling.  
6. For admission to Ph.D. programmes, separate advertisement will be given.  
7. Any Corrigendum/Addendum to the Admission Notice will be published on the University website <https://online.gndu.ac.in> if required, as per rules & regulations of the University.

Sd/- DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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Assured Minimum Facilities at every polling station

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Help Desk

Ramp & Wheel Chair

Toilets

Drinking Water

Signage

Sufficient Light

Voter Facilitation Centres

सुनिश्चित रूप से  
DESH DA GARV

पेसिंन सुब  
POLLING BOOTH

Scan to locate your polling booth

**Get ready to cast your VOTE on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2024**

#MeraVoteDeshKeLiye

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, PUNJAB

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POLL  
SNIPPETS

## FREE RIDE FOR URBAN VOTERS IN RANCHI

Ranchi: In a bid to increase polling percentage in urban booths of Ranchi, the district administration tied up with a bike-taxi aggregator, to provide free pick-and-drop facilities to urban voters, an official said on Saturday. The service will be provided in Ranchi's 181 polling booths across the city. As many as 2,377 polling stations have been set up for the election on Ranchi Lok Sabha seat.

## AKHILESH MOCKS BJP OVER '400 PAAR' SLOGAN

Deoria (UP): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday claimed the BJP's "400 paar" slogan for the Lok Sabha polls would fall flat and the party would yearn to win even 140 seats. He also claimed the companies that donated heavily to the BJP through electoral bonds have been recovering the money by increasing prices of commodities, leading to high inflation across the nation.

## SCULPTURE WITH MANGOES FOR AWARENESS

Puri (Odisha): Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has created a sculpture using 500 kg of mangoes at Puri beach, with an appeal to voters to exercise their franchise in the elections. He created the sculpture with texts on sand that read 'Chunav ka Parv Desh ka Garv' and 'Your Vote Your Voice'. Polling for six parliamentary constituencies and 42 Assembly segments in Odisha are underway in the sixth phase.



Union Minister Anurag Thakur during a rally in Hamirpur. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

## Eyeing 5th straight win, Anurag banks on Modi charisma

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SHIMLA, MAY 25  
The election for the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency from where Union Minister Anurag Thakur is seeking a fifth consecutive term is playing out differently, with the slogan of 'Ek vote PM, ek vote CM' gelling with the holding of simultaneous bypoll for the six Assembly segments.

Four of the six Assembly byelections in Sujjanpur and Barsar (Hamirpur) and Kut-lehar and Gagret (Una), being held due to the disqualification of the rebel Congress legislators, are a part of the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat. Also, political bigwigs, including BJP national president JP Nadda, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri, belong to the Hamirpur parliamentary constituency.

Normally, people have low interest in the Lok Sabha polls as compared to Assembly elections but the simultaneous byelection in six Vidhan Sabha seats is generating a lot of heat in the backdrop of unsuccessful 'Operation Lotus' to pull down the Congress regime earlier this year.

With CM Sukhu whipping up the sentiment of 'janbal aur dhanbal ki ladai' (fight between public strength and money power) to evoke sympathy, there seems to be an undercurrent against the manner in which the six Congress MLAs defected to the

CONSTITUENCY  
WATCH  
HAMIRPUR  
COUNTER CHARGES

■ The BJP is hitting out at Congress for the failed guarantees, mainly ₹1,500 for women

■ The Congress is targeting the Modi government of leaving Himachal 'high and dry' during the monsoon havoc last year

BJP within 15 months of being elected to seek re-election on the saffron ticket. As such the voting pattern for the Lok Sabha and Assembly bypoll could be very different with voters in Himachal being very aware. "MLAs who have switched sides within 15 months and seeking re-election must be taught a lesson as it is an insult of the voters," says Satish Kumar, a resident of Sujjanpur.

"This will prove to be the toughest election for Anurag which the results will prove on June 4," asserts CM Sukhu. The Congress has hit out at the Modi-led NDA regime of leaving Himachal 'high and dry' and not extending any special assistance in the wake of unprecedented monsoons which wreaked havoc last year.

The BJP is seeking votes in the name of Modi-Anurag duo while focusing on the development that has taken place over the past few years, including coming up of the AIIMS at Bilaspur; medical college at Hamirpur; IIT at Una and expansion of four-

lane highway and good road network in the segment. "We have to vote for Anurag to make Modi the PM who has to be given a third term in the interest of the nation," says Prakash Chand, a resident of Hamirpur town.

The BJP is targeting the Congress for its failed guarantees, mainly Rs 1,500 guarantee for women made at the time of Assembly polls.

Although anti-incumbency is bound to act as a deterrent with Thakur seeking a fifth term, with Congress fielding a lightweight, former MLA Satpal Raizada, the BJP does not seem to be worried with Anurag getting the benefit of the stature of his father PK Dhumal, a former two-time CM. "For me every election is important and whether the victory margin increases or decreases, it is immaterial to me," says Anurag. He had won the 2019 polls by a margin of 3.99 lakh votes.

The 'Agnipath' scheme of recruitment in the Army is also coming up in the political discourses in the area with a sizeable number of serving and retired Army personnel openly airing their displeasure over the four-year service in the Army, a dream of the youth from Himachal.

The districts of Hamirpur, Una, Bilaspur and two Assembly segments of Kangra and one of Mandi form the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat, where the BJP is placed most comfortably out of all the four seats in Himachal.

## Reputation on line for Khattar, Saini as Hooda looks to bounce back

Poll result outcome to build narrative for Assembly poll in Haryana later this year

The Tribune  
ANALYSIS

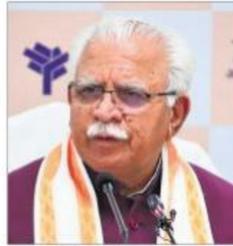
PRADEEP SHARMA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 25

The Lok Sabha election results of Haryana will set the tone for the October Assembly election. The results would go a long way in deciding the political fortunes of the three major political players of Haryana—the BJP, the Congress and the JJP—and their leaders, including Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and former CM Manohar Lal Khattar, Bhupinder Singh and Dushyant Chautala.

The lower voter turnout should come as a relief for the BJP which is hoping that consolidation of its traditional vote bank—comprising mainly non-Jats and urban votes—would translate into an impressive performance which could be replicated in the forthcoming Assembly election.

The results would also put the reputations of BJP stalwarts Khattar and Saini at stake as the duo will have to shoulder



Manohar Lal Khattar



Nayab Singh Saini



Bhupinder Singh Hooda

## WILL MAKE OR BREAK POLITICAL BIGWIGS

"The Lok Sabha election results will impact the forthcoming Assembly poll. The performance by different parties will build a political narrative around which the Assembly elections will be fought later this year. The results will make or break the reputations of many political bigwigs." KUSHAL PAL, POLITICAL ANALYST

the blame in case of poor performance by the saffron party in the backdrop of anti-incumbency against the party.

The results would also put to test BJP's social engineering—consolidating anti-Jats votes comprising OBCs, upper castes and Dalits—against the dominant community Jats (who comprise over 25% of the state's population). This social engineering seems to have paid rich dividends to the party in the last two Assembly and parli-

mentary elections.

The strategy resulted in the party winning seven Lok Sabha seats in 2014 and 10 seats in the 2019 parliamentary elections, besides forming government in the state in 2014 and 2019 Assembly elections.

For Hooda, who emerged as the tallest Jat leader in the wake of the disintegration of the INLD and the JJP sticking to alliance with the BJP even after the 2020-21 farmers' protests and women wrestlers' stir, it will be a chal-

lenge to bounce back on Haryana's political landscape.

The results will determine whether the two-time CM Hooda, who was virtually given a free hand in the selection of the party candidates, except Selja from Sirsa, has been able to consolidate the Jat vote bank in Congress' favour and overcome the Modi factor. In the last two elections, the Congress has been losing on account of the division of Jats votes among the Congress, the INLD and

the JJP (in the 2019 elections).

Hooda will also have to overcome a challenge from the 'SRK' group (Selja, Randeep Surjewala and Kiran Chaudhry) within the Congress. The SRK group was virtually sidelined in the selection of the Congress Lok Sabha candidates, though Selja was nominated as a candidate from Sirsa.

Meanwhile, a win for Selja from Sirsa would give a shot in the arm to the anti-Hooda faction in the party, keeping its hopes alive of a say in the selection of candidates for the Assembly poll. The win for Selja in Sirsa will also make Congress' presence felt in Chautala's stronghold.

"The results will definitely impact the forthcoming Assembly election. The performance by different parties in the Lok Sabha poll will build a political narrative around which the Assembly election will be fought later this year. The results will make or break the reputations of many political bigwigs," said Kushal Pal, a political analyst and Principal of Indira Gandhi National College, Ladwa (Kurukshetra).

## 'SAD-isation' of AAP: Kunwar Vijay hits out at own party for taking in 'criminals'

MANMEET SINGH GILL  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 25

Former IPS officer and AAP Amritsar North MLA Kunwar Vijay Partap Singh has yet again criticised his own party, this time for the recent induction of persons with alleged involvement in organised criminal activities into AAP. At a time when Lok Sabha elections are just round the corner, the AAP leader has put the party in a tight spot with a post on Facebook.

In a long message written in Punjabi and accompanied with four pictures, Singh has questioned the move to induct persons who have alleged involvement in criminal activities or who have been rejected by people in previous elections.

He has shared the copy of a poster with pictures of AAP LS candidate Kuldeep Singh

## FORCED TO ATTEND RALLIES

"The people who once could not look me in the eye and have been rejected by people in earlier elections are now getting prominence in our party and we are forced to attend rallies, roadshows, dinners and meetings with them."

Kunwar Vijay Pratap Singh, AMRITSAR NORTH MLA



Dhaliwal and an alleged gangster, Ankur Likhani, who is facing trial in several cases, including for murder. The poster is about a rally being organised by Likhari in support of Dhaliwal at Jethuwal village on May 27.

The AAP leader has also shared another picture in which BSP leader Dalvir Kaur can be seen joining AAP in the presence of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann

during his visit here few days ago. Dalvir Kaur is the mother of notorious gangster Sonu Kangla, who is also facing several cases.

The message by Kunwar read: "Alas! We had to see this day. There was a time in this holy city when I was inducted into the party by Arvind Kejriwal with much fanfare."

It added: "The people who once could not look me in the eye and have been rejected

by people in earlier elections are now getting prominence in our party and we are forced to attend rallies, roadshows, dinners and meetings with them."

Singh shared two more pictures of SAD leaders joining AAP. He has labelled the post as "SAD-isation of our government and party". While the MLA could not be contacted for a comment, Amritsar Urban AAP in-charge Manish Aggarwal feigned ignorance about the post. He said: "If the party has done something, it might have done so while thinking about all the aspects."

He added that now was not the time to comment on what one MLA was saying as the party leaders and workers were busy in campaigning. He added that the party would discuss the issue after the elections were over.

## Case of proxy vote comes to fore in Hisar

HISAR, MAY 25

An 88-year-old Mahavir Prasad was taken aback when he reached the polling booth to exercise his franchise and he was told that his vote had already been cast. Even his wife Geeta, who had died three years ago, too was shown a voter and her vote too was polled for the General Election held today.

Sanjay, son of Mahavir Prasad and a resident of Krishna colony, said, "When my father reached the polling booth, he was told that he had already voted. The polling staff informed that he had cast his vote in the 'home voting facility' provided by the Election Commission for the voters above 85 years of age. When we argued that no polling party or any representative of the administration ever visited their home to avail home voting facility, the polling staff showed the list of home voters to him," he said — TNS

## AAP's constituency in-charge for 2 years, Kang out to shed 'outsider' tag

CAMPAIGN TRAIL  
MALWINDER S KANG

SANJEEV SINGH BARIANA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, MAY 25

"My son told me that you are a lawyer by profession. Why did you join the muddle of Indian politics?" asks a 60-year old farmer, Sarwan Singh, from Malwinder Singh Kang, AAP candidate from the Anandpur Sahib constituency as he walks out of the Community Centre at Nanu Majra village in Mohali district after his interaction with a small gathering.

Kang bends, touches his feet and replies with a smile, "Babaji! Mera taan fauj vichh selection ho gaya si. Afsar Parr rabh ne tuhadi seva mere palle payee hai" (I was selected as an officer in the Army, however, I did not join. God has chosen me to serve you).

"I am convinced that the

muck of Indian politics will be cleaned only when the youth of the country will decide to enter the arena," said Kang, who is two-time former president of the Panjab University Campus Students Council.

Wearing a white kurta pyjama, which had crumbled during the hectic campaigning schedule, with a green turban and a yellow scarf around his neck, Kang arrives here in the late afternoon after attending corner meetings in Kailon, Saidpur, Gidderpur and Sambhalki villages, all in Mohali district.

His convoy of eight to nine cars carries a team of youngsters. One of the car displays loud speakers playing songs, lauding the rise of AAP.

Kang's core team includes Ravinder Singh Dhaliwal, a fellow of PU senate, Navjot Saini, a former president of PU students' union, Advoca-

PROVIDED 43K GOVT  
JOBS TO YOUTH

"We have given 43,000 government jobs to youngsters. If we got the pending grant of Rs 750 crore from the Centre, there would have been mohalla clinics all over the state by NOW." Malwinder Singh Kang, AAP CANDIDATE, NANU MAJRA SAHIB

te Tejvir Zaildar, Advocate Parwinder Dhanoo, Abhishek Suti, singer Resham Singh Anmol, former PUSU chairman Navjot Saini.

Addressing his first gathering for the day at a paying guest house compound at Kailon village, Kang says, "My opponents are calling me an outsider in Anandpur. Just for record, I have been the constituency in-charge

for my party for two years and have met residents in a number of villages."

Talking about his predecessors, the AAP leader says, "Incumbent Congress MP Manish Tewari fears losing from Anandpur Sahib because he has no work to show during his tenure and has thus shifted to Chandigarh. The Shiromani Akali Dal candidate Prem Singh Chan-

dumajra used the constituency funds to promote his elder son last time he had won."

"Before Tewari, Ravneet Bitu, then a Congress MP, also ran away from the constituency as he had done nothing. Chandumajra and his party allowed the gangsters to prosper and led to a free flow of drugs in the area," he adds.

Kang was accompanied by Mohali MLA Kulwant Singh

at the gathering inside a dhamshala at Saidpur village. He says "We all need to watch out against the BJP's attempt to crush minorities. The country stands on the verge of 'dictatorship' in case Narendra Modi wins again. The entire country will suffer, however, Punjab will suffer more than others because the AAP government is like a thorn in its flesh."

He further targets the BJP for allegedly making a mockery of inducting youth in the defence forces with the 'Agniveer' scheme, which would allow them to serve for just four years. "We will scrap the scheme," the 45-year-old AAP leader asserts.

As the team was leaving the venue, 42-year old Paramjit Kaur, walks up to Kang, saying, "your government promised that our torn down homes will be repaired. It has been more than two

years, but we are still living under a roof that is on the verge of collapse. I am not alone who is living in such condition in the village."

Another youngster shouted from the crowd: "We all voted for you last time but our roads have not improved even a little bit. Not just our village, more than a dozen villages in our surroundings have roads that are badly damaged, due to which accidents have become frequent."

Requesting anonymity, a senior citizen walking out of the venue, says, "We are not fools, who will listen to promises about roads every time without seeing any work. Now, they are giving the worthless excuse that the Central Government is not giving them any funds."

Nanu Majra residents are demanding that the two transformers in their locality are immediately shifted else-

where as these pose threat, especially to youngsters playing in the locality.

Talking to a small group of local residents before getting into his car towards Chau Majra village, Kang folds his hands and says, "Look at the improvement in education for the poor through the 'Schools of Eminence'. At least 1.5 crore people have availed free medical services in the mohalla clinics started by our government. We have given 43,000 government jobs to youngsters. If we got the pending grant of Rs 750 crore from the Centre, there would have been mohalla clinics all over the state by now."

Just as he enters his car, Kang says, "Cast your vote for someone who can raise your voice in the Parliament and not for deaf and dumb leaders, who don't even speak for you. Don't vote for me, if you are not convinced."

## POLL SNIPPETS

### AAP NOMINEE ACCUSED OF FORGING CERTIFICATE

Faridkot: Accusing AAP candidate Karamjit Singh Anmol of using a forged caste certificate to contest poll from the Faridkot (SC) constituency, SAD(B) candidate Rajwinder Singh Dharamkot has filed a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner-Retiring Officer of Faridkot. Karamjit Anmol denied the allegations saying it was an attempt by the Akalis to disturb his election campaign.

### ON WAY TO VOTE, MAN TRAMPLED BY TUSKER

Jamshedpur: A 71-year-old man was trampled to death by a wild elephant in a village in Jharkhand's East Singhbhum district while he was on way to cast his vote for the Lok Sabha elections on Saturday, the police said. The deceased was the "pradhan" (village head) of Gobarbani village within the limits of the Baharagora police station in the Jamshedpur Lok Sabha constituency.

### 'DEFENESTRATE' BJP GOVT: THAROOR TO VOTERS

Jalandhar: Known for the use of lesser-known words in his tweets and speeches, Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said he wanted the voters to "defenestrate" the BJP government. "It implies throwing someone out of the window and this is exactly what we need to do," he said. The Keralaite MP was in Jalandhar to be a part of a pre-poll interaction organised by the Congress with intellectuals of the city.



## CALL OF DEMOCRACY

President Droupadi Murmu at a polling booth in New Delhi; CJ D Y Chandrachud in Delhi and UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya in Prayagraj show their inked fingers; and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi, her husband Robert Vadra, children Miraya and Raihan, and brother Rahul Gandhi at a polling booth in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI/PTI/MANAS RANJAN BHUI

# Rahul raises poll stakes in Punjab with loan waiver, MSP law promise

Says BJP wants to destroy the idea of equality enshrined in the Constitution

NEERAJ BAGGA  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

AMRITSAR, MAY 25

Hours after casting his vote along with his mother Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi, former Congress president and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi accused BJP leaders, including PM Narendra Modi, of planning to change the Constitution after forming the government for the third term in a row. Rahul made these remarks while addressing a rally at Mirankot village here. He also promised to waive all loans of farmers and enact a law to ensure MSP for various crops, if the Congress formed the government at the Centre.

Mirankot village is situated near Ajnala and Attari Assembly segments, which have a sizeable number of voters from the SC and backward communities. Electorates from both segments had come to the rally in large numbers.

Addressing the rally in favour of Congress candidate and incumbent Amritsar MP Gurjeet Singh Aujla, Rahul thanked party leaders and workers for attending the rally in the scorching heat (43°C).

"How is your mood?" he said. The mood of Punjab was the mood of the people across the country, he said. He launched a



### MODI HAD TERMED FARMERS 'TERRORISTS'

PM Modi had termed farmers of India, especially those from Punjab, as terrorists while they were protesting against the three farm laws at Delhi borders. He can afford to waive ₹60 lakh crore loans of 22 billionaires, but can't do the same for farmers.

Rahul Gandhi, FORMER CONG CHIEF

<< Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during a rally in support of party's Amritsar candidate Gurjeet Aujla on Saturday. PHOTO: VISHAL KUMAR

scathing attack on senior BJP leaders claiming that they were openly claiming to change the Constitution once they formed the government at the Centre.

Striking an emotional chord with the gathering, Rahul said the Constitution incorporated the thoughts and philosophy of Guru Nanak Dev and other saints of India, who insisted on equal status to the entire humanity in their discourses. By its alleged attack on the Constitution, Rahul said, the BJP was attacking the ideology of Dr Ambedkar

and those saints. The Congress that was committed to safeguarding the Constitution, he claimed.

Castigating the BJP for introducing the three farm laws that were protested by the farmers of Haryana, Punjab and other states, he alleged PM Modi had termed those protesters as "terrorists". He wondered how Modi could afford to waive loans worth Rs 60 lakh crore of 22 billionaires, but couldn't do the same for debt-ridden farmers.

Rahul said when he visited Punjab during the Bharat

Jodo Yatra, the state's farmers had asked him certain questions. They told him that the prices of various products were written on the packets, but it was not so for any farm produce.

Rahul promised that the Congress would waive loans of farmers if it formed a government. The party would form a committee to review the loan requirements of farmers, enact a law on guaranteed MSP and restructure insurance scheme for crops, he said.

"The BJP made 22 persons

year rule. The Congress will make crores of people 'lakhpati'. These people will be from economically weak families, unemployed students and women. Each of them will receive Rs 8,500 per month in their accounts," he said.

"In this way, we are trying to jump start the Indian economy as these people will not spend money overseas, as is the case with 22 billionaires. These people will spend that money for buying clothes, mobiles and other daily-use articles from local markets, which will in turn offer employment to youth."

Rahul also promised that the Congress would carry out recruitments to the 30 lakh posts lying vacant in various government departments. He ended his speech with the promise of making the Golden Temple an internationally renowned pilgrimage centre.

LoP and senior Congress leader Partap Singh Bajwa said Punjab had always believed in "Jai Jawan, Jai kisan" (farmers and army men). He accused the BJP of upsetting both these sections with its lopsided policies. Over 700 farmers lost their lives while agitating against the three farm laws, he said. He said the Agniveer scheme would be scrapped after the formation of Congress government at the Centre.

# Norms followed, EC junks TMC charge of 'BJP tags' on EVMs

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

The Election Commission on Saturday denied charges levelled by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) that EVMs with "BJP tags" were used at a polling booth in Bankura.

Responding to allegations, the EC said as only the BJP candidate's representative was present while commissioning of the EVMs and VVPATs at that particular booth, his signature was taken at that time.

Sharing two pictures of EVMs having paper tags with BJP written on those, the TMC said in a post on "X" that "Smt. @MamataOfficial has repeat-

### POLL PANEL'S CLARIFICATION

While EVM commissioning, common address tags are signed by the candidates and their agents present there. Since only the BJP candidate's representative was present at that time in the hall, his signature was taken during the commissioning of that EVM and VVPAT. Election Commission

edly flagged how @BJP4India was trying to rig votes by tampering with EVMs. And today, in Bankura's Raghunathpur, 5 EVMs were found with BJP tags on them... @ECISVEEP should immediately look into it and take corrective action.

In response to the TMC post, the EC said, "While commissioning, common address tags are signed by the candidates and their agents present there. Since only the BJP candidate's representative was present at that time in the hall, his signature was taken during commissioning of that EVM and VVPAT."

"However, the signatures of all agents present at polling booth Nos 56, 58, 60, 61, 62 were obtained. All ECI norms were duly followed when commissioning was done," it added.

### Rallying support



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann holds a roadshow to garner support for Aam Aadmi Party's Amritsar Lok Sabha seat at candidate Kuldeep Dhaliwal on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

# In Varanasi's unequal contest, it's down to Oppn unity

SANDEEP DIKSHIT  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

VARANASI, MAY 25

Vox populi clustered around tea shops in the morning and late into the night in one of the most ancient temple towns in the country have been robbed of a major talking point - the chances of different candidates. The dominance of PM Narendra Modi as the candidate of the BJP for the third time running is now considered complete.

This is in tune with the change in Varanasi's laid-back character in which PM Modi has played the transformational role. The two-lane approach roads from Azamgarh, Sultanpur and Prayagraj that converge on Banaras are now old memories.

The waterfront around the ghats gives a stunning view during the 'aarti' in the evening and nothing can be done about the surge in traf-

fic brought about by the outpouring of pilgrims after the Kashi corridor was determinedly pushed through by the Yogi-Modi combine in a city that had burst out of its seams and beyond.

But the elections here lack the vibrancy of the past when nearly every cycle at the state and national levels threw up a surprise winner. Veteran journalist and a "pukka Banarasi" Suphal Kumar ascribes several reasons that go beyond the domineering presence of PM Modi for the lukewarm response of the people towards electioneering.

"Parties would regularly hold worker-level meetings at block, tehsil and mohalla levels. I don't think any party does that now. Second, many cadre-based parties have emasculated. Third, many regional chieftains who became national leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav and



Mayawati would tour the state year-round. Their political successors do not seem to be as energetic," reasons Suphal. The extended region of Varanasi, extending into Azamgarh and Ghazipur, was

once known for people's movements and a tradition of deep political ferment, secular impulses and intellectual thought. It once elected a Parsi, Rustam Satin, as the MLA from Varanasi South; a Mus-

lim Shafiqur Rahman Ansari as its Mayor and CPM's Satya Narain Singh as its MP.

The absence of a BJP workers' generated buzz is explained by Suphal with the peaking of the party's cam-

### CAN OPPN GO BEYOND 3.5 LAKH VOTES?

The combined Opposition had polled around 3.5 lakh votes against PM Narendra Modi in 2014 and 2019

Even a combined front would not have posed a challenge to the PM, who got 6.5 lakh votes in 2019 and 5.81 lakh in 2014

There is no SP or AAP candidate this time, the parties are backing Congress' Ajay Rai

Of academic interest is whether the combined Opposition (minus the BSP) will breach its 3.5 lakh vote ceiling

<< Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Nari Shakti Sammelan held in Varanasi. FILE PHOTO

"It is not possible to keep up the tempo for so many months. The dullness is also because BJP leaders feel the elections are all but sewn up," he adds.

Yet, a political challenge - even if symbolic - is being mounted. "The polling in Varanasi will be a test of INDI alliance's cohesiveness," reckons Sanjay Asthana, writer and academic, resting at his home buried deep in the labyrinths of the old city. The combined Opposition had polled around 3.5 lakh votes against PM Narendra Modi in 2014 and 2019. A combined challenge would have posed no challenge to the 6.5 lakh votes for PM Modi in 2019 riding a Balakot strike wave and 5.81 lakh in 2014 despite a spirited challenge by Arvind Kejriwal.

There is no SP and AAP this time, both of whom are backing the Congress' Ajay Rai. Of

academic interest is whether the combined Opposition (minus the BSP) will breach its 3.5 lakh vote ceiling. Such has been Modi's impact on the city's fortunes that in a city known for its contrarians, charges of authoritarianism, do not stick after the rejection of comedian Shyam Rangila's nomination. "We know he was not serious and was doing it for publicity. Things would have been different had the nomination of Atahar Jamal Lari (BSP candidate) or Ajai Rai been cancelled," says a local Sumit Rai, though he also suggests that the cancellation showed the power of the administration.

But the makeover of Varanasi has given so many employment and business opportunities all the way down the economic ladder that chances of Narendra Modi's victory is a foregone conclusion.

# No INDIA bloc leader fit for PM's post: Shah

### Accuses Cong of using Himachal as ATM to finance its election campaigns, bungling disaster relief funds

RAJESH SHARMA & LALIT MOHAN

UNA/DHARAMSALA, MAY 25  
 Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that no leader in the INDIA bloc was worthy of the Prime Minister's seat. He named leaders of different political parties in the INDIA bloc and asked people if any of them was suitable for the Prime Minister's post. He addressed a public meeting at Amb in the Chintpurni Assembly segment in support of Anurag Thakur, BJP candidate from the Hamirpur Lok Sabha seat.

He said Narendra Modi had led the country and many other countries in the war against Covid, responded strongly to cross-border terrorism and Naxalism from within, boosted the morale of scientists for landing a craft on the moon, got rid of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, leading to one nation-one constitution-one flag theory, and helped sort out the Ram Temple issue, thus paving the way for its construction at Ayodhya.

Shah said that Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) was, is and would remain part of India and very soon, "it would be ours".



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, state BJP chief Rajeev Bindal and party candidate Anurag Thakur at a rally in Una on Saturday, PTI

Shah said, "It is Modi who gave the benefit of One Rank One Pension to ex-servicemen and made a budgetary provision of Rs 1.65 lakh crore for the purpose. He said that the Congress came to power in Himachal on the back of false promises. He asked women in the gathering whether they were getting Rs 1,500 per month as promised by the

Congress. He added that people were not getting the promised 300 units free electricity, the government was not buying cow dung for Rs 2 per kg and milk for Rs 100 per litre from farmers as the Congress had promised to do. He said that all six Congress MLAs, who had revolted and joined the BJP, would win the byelections from

their constituencies, paving the way for the party forming government in the state. In Dharamsala, Shah accused the Congress of using Himachal Pradesh as an ATM for funding its election campaigns, and bungling grants provided by the Centre as disaster relief. He alleged that the Congress made Himachal government an ATM for con-

testing elections. Himachal people were being forced to pay for funding election campaign of Congress. He counted various development projects given by the BJP government to Himachal including roads and national highways. Shah, while addressing a political rally, talked of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led NDA forming gov-

ernment at the Centre and India taking over PoK. He introduced BJP candidate for the Dharamsala Assembly byelection Sudhir Sharma, and appealed to people to make the party victorious on all four parliamentary seats. Besides, he urged voters to make the BJP victorious in six Assembly constituencies, where byelections are scheduled.

## AIIMS-BILASPUR, IIIT-UNA ANURAG'S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Amit Shah said that AIIMS and hydroelectric engineering college in Bilaspur, PGI satellite centre and the IIIT in Una and Central schools in all districts of the Hamirpur Lok Sabha segment were some of Anurag's achievements
- He said that ₹10,000 crore had been spent on the widening of the Kiratpur Sahib-Nerchowk highway, ₹1,300 crore on the Hamirpur-Mandi road widening and ₹870 crore had been earmarked for the construction of a bridge over the Gobind Sagar lake
- Shah added that ₹1,000 crore had been sanctioned for laying the Leh-Bhanupoli broad gauge railway line and ₹2,000 crore for the development of a bulk drug park in Una

# Cong 'spreading wrong' info on Agniveer scheme

DHARAMSALA, MAY 25

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today issued a clarification on the Agniveer scheme in Kangra district where ex-servicemen and in-service soldiers form a sizable vote bank. In a video byte issued in Kangra, he accused the Congress of spreading misinformation over the Agniveer Scheme. He said that the Congress was spreading misinformation that those recruited in the Army under the Agniveer scheme would be ousted from job after four years. However, the fact was that after serving four years in the Army, 25 per cent of the Agniveer recruits would get regular recruitment in the Army.

"The BJP-ruled states have made provisions of providing 10 per cent to 20 per cent reservation in the police force for those who had served as Agniveers. In the Central reserve police forces also reservation has been made for Agniveers. Besides, they will get jobs in private security agencies. So, most of the people, who will serve in Indian Army as Agniveers, will be absorbed in government or private sector. The Agniveers will also get benefits that are available to other government employees," he added.

The Congress is prominently raising the Agniveer issue in Kangra, to the annoyance of the BJP. A large number of soldiers from Kangra are serving in the Indian Army and ex-servicemen form a sizable vote bank in the district.

Congress candidate from Kangra Anand Sharma has aggressively been targeting the BJP over the Agniveer scheme. He has been saying that the scheme is the exploitation of Kangra's youth, as the people of the district had the tradition and history of serving in the Indian Army for generations. He is saying that the young Agniveers are retired after four years and not given any benefits that are available to regular Army soldiers. Sharma is promising that if the Congress is voted to power at the Centre, it will scrap the Agniveer scheme. — TNS

## SIZABLE VOTE BANK

- The Congress is prominently raising the Agniveer issue in Kangra, to the annoyance of the BJP
- A large number of soldiers from Kangra are serving in the Indian Army and ex-servicemen form a sizable vote bank in the district

# PM, Nadda remember state only during poll, forget later, says Sukhu

OUR CORRESPONDENT

NURPUR, MAY 25

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today gave a clarion call to people to vote for saving democracy and the Constitution of the country. He addressed election meetings at Jawali, Indora and Nurpur in Kangra district in support of Congress candidate Anand Sharma.

He said that whenever elections come, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, national BJP president JP Nadda and other central leaders remember Himachal Pradesh but after the elections they forget the people of the state. He alleged that the Prime Minister had left the state in the lurch when the monsoon disaster wreaked havoc in the state last year and the Central Government did not respond to the repeated appeals of the state.

Sukhu alleged that the BJP was anti-women as it had opposed the Mahila Samman Nidhi Yojana before the announcement of the Lok



CM Sukhvinder Sukhu addresses an election meeting at Nurpur.

Sabha elections. He said that in the past 15 months, the state government had fulfilled five of the 10 guarantees that the Congress had given to the people of the state before the last Assembly elections. The remaining five guarantees would be fulfilled in a phased manner, he added.

He said that eligible women would start getting the Mahila Samman Nidhi of Rs 1,500 per month after the model code of

conduct was lifted and they would get the two months' amount in June. He urged the people of the Kangra Lok Sabha seat to vote for Congress candidate Anand Sharma, who is one of the tallest national leaders and would effectively raise the issues of Kangra in the Lok Sabha. Sukhu said Sharma was a visionary leader and could bring big projects to Kangra and Chamba districts.

# Vote for Cong if you want to save Constitution, democracy: Kharge

PRATIBHA CHAUHAN

SHIMLA, MAY 25

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today cautioned people against voting the BJP to power as democracy and Constitution under Prime Minister Narendra Modi were under threat. Kharge, while addressing an election rally at Rohru in Shimla district, said that the people of India had made up their mind to throw the BJP out of power. He said that Congress was trying to save democracy as it was only then that people could enjoy the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution. "If you fail to do so you will be back to slavery. The SCs, STs and OBCs are getting benefits due to the provisions in the Constitution," he headed. He alleged that RSS leaders like Mohan Bhagwat and BJP leaders were saying that if voted to power, they would change the Constitution. "Modi remembers Rahul Gandhi even more than God because he fears Rahul and Sonia Gandhi and the Congress. Several attempts have been made to intimidate the Congress, irrespective of that we will continue to work fearlessly," he said. "In this election, people are giving vent to their anger against unemployment and price rise," he added. Kharge said, "The Prime



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addresses a rally at Rohru in Shimla district, PTI

## NOT AGAINST MODI BUT OPPOSED TO BJP'S DIVISIVE POLITICS

- Mallikarjun Kharge, while speaking with mediapersons after the election rally, said that people would vote the BJP out of power, as they were fed up with unemployment, price rise, farmers' distress and the misuse of constitutional bodies. "Being in an alliance, all leaders will collectively decide the Prime Minister after winning the elections," he added.
- He said, "People are fighting their own battle against the BJP's misrule. The BJP and Modi are completely rattled, which is evident from divisive politics based on communalism and casteism they are indulging in. We will fill 30 lakh vacancies in the government sector, give Rs 400 daily wages under MGNREGA and provide legal guarantee for MSP on crops and debt waiver to farmers."
- "The Congress is not against Modi but we are against the divisive politics and the ideology of the BJP. They are crushing adivasis and farmers, 750 of whom died on the Delhi border fighting for their rights. It is surprising that the corrupt and tainted leaders, who had joined the BJP, have claimed that the INDIA bloc would form government after June 4," Kharge said

Minister never lies as he is the son of Harishchander. So, you all must ask him what happened to the promise to create two crore jobs every year, 40 crore houses and doubling

the income of farmers" He accused Modi of trying to mislead people by stating that the Congress would take away their properties, gold and other assets and give these to those belonging to a

minority community. Kharge hit out at Modi for not extending any special assistance to Himachal after the monsoon disaster last year despite the state government seeking Rs 10,000 crore.

# Vote for making India developed nation: IPL chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT

HAMIRPUR, MAY 25

An aware voter is the builder of a strong nation and it is this power that helped Narendra Modi-led NDA government to change the face of the country, said Arun Dhimal, chairman of the Indian Premier League (IPL), while addressing a Yuva Sammelan here today. He said that the country that was importing weapons till 2014 was now exporting defence equipment, including missiles, to a number of countries. He added that the Prime Minister had restored the dignity of India that was demolished by the Congress in 60 years. He said people should vote in the interest of the nation for making India a progressive and developed nation. Speaking on the occasion, Narender Attri, state secretary of BJP, said the youth must decide to keep the country in safe hands. "People will have to choose between scamsters in the Commonwealth games or the government that encourages sports resulting in exceptional performances internationally," he said. Arun sought votes for his brother and BJP candidate from the Hamirpur seat Anurag Thakur to make Narendra Modi Prime Minister for the third time.

**The Parwanoo Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.** Distt. Solan (H.P.) Ph: 01792-233907, 233191

**(Rule 8-1) POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)**

Whereas, the undersigned being The Authorized officer of The Parwanoo Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) and 13(12) read with rules 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules Demand Notice as mentioned below calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amount within 60 days of the notice.

The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount. Notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against. The Account.

The borrower(s) / guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property(ies) will be subject to the charge of The Parwanoo Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.; for the amounts and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch / Borrower / Guarantor	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding as per demand notice
<b>Branch: Parwanoo Distt. Solan</b> Borrower(s): Smt. Seema Sharma W/o Sh. Kapil Dev Sharma (Advocate) R/o 1282-B-2 Near Sita Ram Mandir, Pinjore-134102; Smt. Neelam Sharma W/o Sh. Mam Chand Sharma, R/o 1282-B-2 Near Sita Ram Mandir, Pinjore-134102 & Sh. Ghanshyam S/o Sh. Ved Parkash, R/o Upper Mahalla, Kalka	(1) All parts and parcel of equitable mortgaged property bearing No. 704 Part measuring 65 Sq. Yards situated at Mouza Nagar Nigam Panchkula Zone Kalka Tehsil Kalka Distt. Panchkula (Haryana), as per Sale Deed No. 1009 dated 07.07.2014 registered with Sub-Registrar Kalka standing in the name of Smt. Neelam Sharma W/o Sh. Mam Chand Sharma.	02.02.2024	24.05.2024	Rs. 69,34,758/- plus interest w.e.f. 01.01.2024 plus legal charges and other expenses (Less recovery if any)
<b>Branch: Parwanoo Distt. Solan</b> Borrower(s): Sh. Mohit Vesasi R/o 1518 B-1 Abdulapur Pinjore-134102 & Guarantor Sh. Verender Vesasi R/o 1518 B-1 Abdulapur Pinjore-134102	All parts and parcel of equitable mortgaged property bearing Khata No. 83/189 Khasra No. 170 Total measuring 6-15 out that 60/2700 share (which comes to 0-3 (3 Biswas) and Khawat Khatouni No. 80 Khasra No. 236/0-7 630/235/0-6 total measuring 0-13 out of that 3/260 share (which comes to 0-0-3 (3 Biswas) Total 0-3-3 (3 Biswas 3 Biswas) situated at Mouza Bitna (Haddast) Kalka (Haryana). As per sale deed no 3882 dated 18.03.2015 registered with Sub Registrar Kalka standing in the name of Sh. Mohit Vesasi S/o Sh. Verender Vesasi.	07.02.2024	24.05.2024	Rs. 22,81,842/- plus interest w.e.f. 01.01.2024 + legal charges and other expenses (Less recovery if any)
<b>Branch: Nalagarh Distt. Solan</b> Borrower's / Mortgagee: (1) Sh. Rajiv Kumar S/o Sh. Surinder Kumar, R/o # 117, Ward No. 7, Near MC Park Rameela Ground Nalagarh, Tehsil, Nalagarh Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101, (2) Smt. Rita Verma W/o Sh. Rajiv Kumar, R/o # 117, Ward No. 7, Near MC Park Rameela Ground Nalagarh, Tehsil, Nalagarh Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101, & Guarantor: Smt. Nirma Devi W/o Sh. Surinder Kumar, H.No. 117 Ward No. 7, Nalagarh near MC Park Nalagarh Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101	Mortgage of part and parcel of property measuring 86.12 Sq. mtr comprised (on khasra No. 1801/2, (43-02 sq. mtr.), Khasra No. 1804, (43-10 sq. mtr.), Khata Khatouni No. 582/620 as per Jamabandi for the year 2013-14 H.B. No. 139/2 alongwith single storey residential building constructed thereon situated in Up Mahal New Nalagarh, Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101 registered in the name of Sh. Rajiv Kumar s/o Sh. Surinder Kumar.	13.06.2022	24.05.2024	Rs. 23,17,239/- as on 31.05.2022 with further interest @ 13.00% p.a. on monthly rests + penal interest and incidental expenses, costs w.e.f. 01.06.2022 onward and other charges thereon.
<b>Branch: Nalagarh Distt. Solan</b> Borrower: Smt. Neelam Rani W/o Sh. Bhagirath Anand, Prop. of M/s Pink Rose Tailors, Ward No. 4, Nalagarh, Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101, & Guarantor: Mortgagee Sh. Bhagirath Anand S/o Sh. Madan Mohan, Ward No. 4, Nalagarh, Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101	Mortgage of part and parcel of property measuring 175 sq. mtr. being 1/4 share of total land measuring 700 sq. mtrs. comprised on Khasra No. 2682/700/1 khata khatouni No. 54/73 as per jamabandi 1998-99 dated 04.06.2014, hadbast No. 139/1 in the name of Sh. Bhagirath Anand S/o Sh. Madan Mohan situated at up mahal Purana Nalagarh, Tehsil Nalagarh, Distt. Solan (H.P.)-174101	18.10.2023	24.05.2024	Rs. 6,33,980/- as on 30.09.2023 plus interest and penal interest @ 2% w.e.f. 01.10.2023 i.e. from the date of Demand Notice & other charges thereon.

# Two killed as pick-up vehicle falls into gorge

NAHAN, MAY 25

Two youths were killed when their pick-up vehicle plunged into a deep ditch after colliding with a car near Ambota on the Solan-Meenas road yesterday. The accident occurred when the pick-up vehicle (HP79-3413), coming to Ron-

hat from Vikasnagar in Uttarakhand lost control at a narrow turn. The vehicle struck a car (HP85-1125) before veering off the road and tumbling 300 feet into a gorge. The duo identified as Amit (20) and Sandeep (28), both residents of the Ronhat sub tehsil were killed. — OC

# Election Dept gets 1,406 complaints, maximum from Mandi, decides 88%

SHIMLA, MAY 25

The state Election Department has decided 88 per cent complaints received so far. Out of the 1,406 complaints that were received since the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force, 1,235 were decided, with the maximum complaints being filed during electioneering for the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, which is hogging the limelight. An FIR has been registered at Kaza in Lahaul and Spiti district for obstructing BJP candidate Kangana Ranaut's rally. Multiple complaints were received from the Congress legal cell against Kangana for passing personal remarks against Vikramaditya Singh. Notices were also issued by Mandi and

Kullu DCs and the inquiry report was sent to the ECI. A complaint was filed against Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu by the BJP for using derogatory remarks against a BJP candidate in Una. The transcript of the speech has been sent to the ECI. Randeep Singh Surjewala also filed a complaint against Anurag Thakur. A teacher has been suspended in Sirmaur for participating in the election campaign of a political party, while disciplinary action is being taken against an assistant professor in Kullu for the same reason. Re-employment of some officials has also been put on hold and employees with more than three years'

stay were transferred outside the district. Action is being taken against Kangana for her announcement regarding the medical treatment of a girl injured at the Palampur bus stand. Another notice has been issued to the actress by the Mandi DC for her religious remarks. Former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur filed a complaint on the Rs 1,500 assistance scheme for women, after which no new beneficiaries are being selected. Complaints were received against MLA Sanjay Rattan and Congress candidate from Gagret Rakesh Kalita for invoking religious sentiments, for which reply has been sought from them.

**SHRI MATA VAISHNO DEVI UNIVERSITY**  
Kakryal, Katra 182320 (J&K)  
(Recognized under section 12 (B) & 2 (f) of UGC Act, 1956)

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SMVDU/AA/24/230  
Dated: 24/05/2024

Sd/-  
Registrar

Our names not on voters' list, claim non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits

MATTA, MAY 25 It was reported nearly 40 per cent of over 27,000 displaced Kashmiri Pandits voted at 34 special polling stations set up for the community in Jammu, Udhampur and Delhi.

Meanwhile, many non-migrant Kashmiri Pandits expressed anguish, claiming their names were not on the voters' list. They said it was "unfortunate", especially as they had remained in the region despite the turbulent militancy-period of the 1990s.

The matter pertained to a polling station set up at the Government Higher Secondary School here. "I was denied my right to vote as my name was not in the list," said Sarfajji Tickoo, a retired government employee.

People said they had their Aadhaar and voter cards, but were still "not allowed" to cast their votes.

However, no comment was immediately available from poll officials in this regard. — PTI

UT polling wraps up with 54% turnout in Anantnag



NASEER GANAI

ANANTNAG, MAY 25 South Kashmir's Anantnag-Rajouri constituency witnessed 54.30 per cent turnout till 11.45 pm, crossing the 50.2-per cent mark, recorded in the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, according to the Election Commission.

Last of the five constituencies in the UT to go to the polls, the segment, spreading over five districts — Rajouri, Poonch, Anantnag, Shopian and Kulgam — voted on Saturday.

Today's polling will determine the fate of 20 candidates, including PDP president Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference candidate Mian Altaf.

Electoralates thronged polling stations across Assembly segments as voting began this morning. Even, residents living near the LoC said voting took place peacefully.

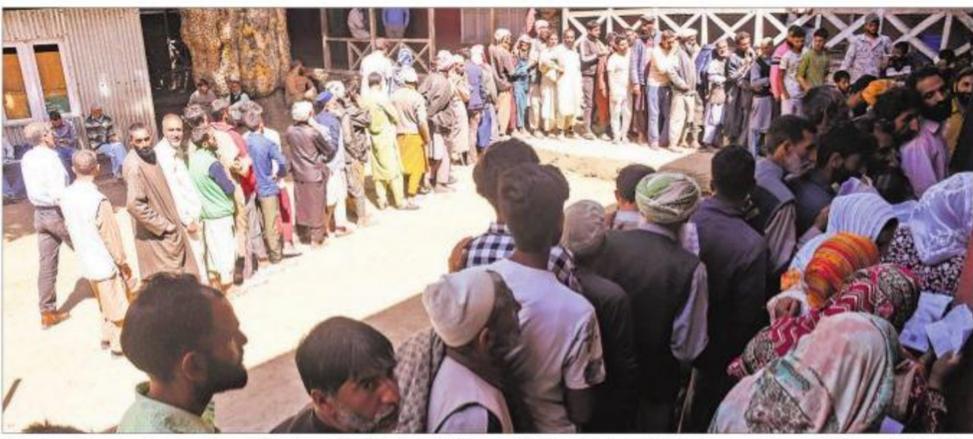
However, Bijbehara town presented a different scene as the elections were marred by the alleged arrest of several PDP workers and a subsequent sit-in by Mufti.

Elsewhere in the constituency, the polling went smoothly. Mufti also stopped her protest after the police released her workers. Voting gradually picked up in the entire constituency, with many voters saying they were voting for change.

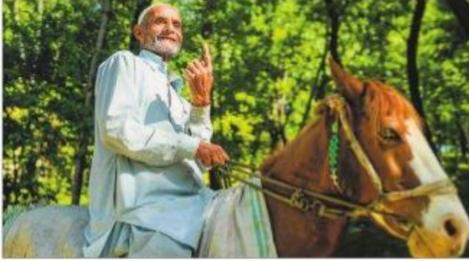
"There are no jobs and the youth are unemployed. We are voting for change," said Showkat Bhat, a voter from Ganespora in Pahalgam.

Of the 742 registered voters at the Ganespora polling booth, 522 had cast their votes by 2.30 pm. At the Hardkijru booth, 620 of the 1,046 registered voters had voted by the same time.

Voters asserted that it was important to have local government. "We face problems every day. Recently, two people were arrested in this constituency. We don't know whom to approach for redressal. That's why voting is necessary," said Mushatq Ahmad.



Voters wait to exercise their franchise at a polling station at Kokernag in Anantnag; and (below) a man shows his inked finger after casting vote in the Nandimarg area in Kulgam district on Saturday. PHOTOS: ANI & PTI



ELECTIONS WERE PEACEFUL ACROSS KASHMIR: CEO

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) PK Pole said the polling was peaceful in all phases across the UT. The Election Commission didn't encounter any security issues or feel the need to shift security from one area to another, he stated. He said earlier Kashmir would see violence and incidents of stone-pelting during polling days. "But in all five phases, including polls in three constituencies of Kashmir, no stone-pelting incidents were reported this time. The polling parties didn't face any difficulty in reaching anywhere for duty," he added. — OC

4 Punjab natives killed in accident

SRINAGAR, MAY 25 Four residents of Punjab lost their lives, while three sustained critical injuries in a road accident that occurred on Saturday afternoon in the Nipora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district, according to officials.

They were on their way from Qazigund to Srinagar when their vehicle veered off the road near the grid station in Nipora. All seven tourists hail from Punjab's Moga district. "The injured were rushed to GMC Hospital in Anantnag, where four were pronounced dead, while three are in critical condition," the official said.

The deceased were identified as Sandeep Sharma (28), Romy (26), Jagdish alias Honey (23), and Gurmeet Singh (23). — OC

CALENDAR

- May 26th 2024, Sunday
Shaka Samvat 1946
Jyeshtha Shaka 5
Jyeshtha Purnimashi 13
Hijari 1445
Krishna Paksha Tithi 3, up to 6:07 pm
Sadhya Yoga up to 8:31 am
Moola Nakshatra up to 10:36 am
Moon in Sagittarius sign
Gandmoola up to 10:36 am

People voting to register their protest: Tarigami

TARIGAMI, MAY 25 In the midst of intense political activities in the Valley and despite the presence of Jamaat-e-Islami strongholds in the area, Kulgam stands firm as a bastion of the CPI(M).

Mohammed Yusuf Tarigami, the CPI(M) state secretary and a four-time Kulgam MLA, actively campaigned for Mian Altaf — the candi-

date for the party's People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) partner the National Conference — through vibrant roadshows.

Altaf is contesting the elections from the Anantnag-Rajouri constituency, where elections are being held on Saturday. At 75, Tarigami — who has kept the CPI(M) flag flying high in the region even

through challenging times — expressed his determination as he cast his ballot in the Tarigami village of south Kashmir's Kulgam.

"Today, we got an opportunity and people of Kashmir used it in the best way to register their protest against what happened in August 2019," he said after exercising his franchise at a

polling station in his ancestral Tarigami village.

"Voting is our constitutional right and we have been doing it all along ... People are angry over being deprived of the rights given to them by the Constitution and are thronging the polling stations to register their protest through ballots," Tarigami said. — PTI



PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti protests in Anantnag on Saturday. ANI

PDP workers 'detained'

SRINAGAR, MAY 25 Former CM and PDP candidate Mehbooba Mufti staged a protest against the alleged arrest of her workers and polling agents. She said her workers, many of whom were also her polling agents, were picked up from different places and detained. She accused the government and the police of "spreading terror" in the Anantnag area.

She compared today's polls to the controversial 1987 elections, calling it an example of "tactical rigging". She said the police's action had discredited the election process. Mufti also accused the L-G Manoj Sinha of playing a "nefarious role" in the arrests, saying if such actions were occurring under his

watch, it couldn't be assumed that they were happening without his approval. "Claims were made by a political party that their workers have been detained. Firstly, detention are very few and restricted only to those who have tainted past and based on credible inputs of potential threats to law and order, and security on the polling day," the Anantnag police said in a post on X. "Most of them are OGWs and are taken into preventive custody for ensuring a safe and peaceful election," the police added.

However, the PDP chief said, "One of the arrested persons was Najmu Saqib, who is youth General Secretary of the party. It is sad to describe youths as OGWs." — OC

CEC: J&K Assembly poll...

FROM PAGE 1 also allow Modito position himself as a champion of democracy and his re-election may set the stage for pushing ahead with bold steps like resuming talks and trade with Pakistan. In a recent interview, talking about the Opposition's

"strategy" against him, the PM had said that the idea is to "humiliate India globally and to stop Modi's victory because if Modi wins, he will become senior-most among all elected governments of the world, among all true democratic governments".

61% vote in...

West Bengal went to the polls in the sixth phase, where a total of 889 candidates were in the fray.

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from various parts of the Kanthi, Tamaluk, West Midnapore and Bishnupur constituencies.

The EC had received 954 complaints by 11 am, predominantly from political parties alleging malfunction in EVMs and obstruction in polling agents' entry into booths.

In the Ghatal constituency, clashes erupted between supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the BJP with saffron party candidate Hiran Chatterjee accusing the TMC of impeding the voting process by preventing the entry of their booth agents.

Somendu Adhikari, BJP candidate from the Kanthi seat, said incidents of violence were reported from various parts of the constituency and accused the TMC and Central forces of assaulting voters.

In Bankura, the TMC alleged that EVMs were used with BJP tags in a polling booth, a charge refuted by the ECI.

A first: Gandhis vote for non-Cong...

Delhi constituency, Ajay Maken of the Congress had finished second and AAP's Brijesh Goyal third while BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi emerged victorious.

"Watching your top leadership vote for a candidate of another party is hardly reassuring. It is demoralising," says veteran Ramesh Sabharwal of the Delhi Congress.

Sabharwal says the Congress should at least have kept in its kitty New Delhi, a seat where its top leaders vote. The first two elections in New Delhi were won by Sucheta Kripalani, who went on to become India's first woman Chief Minister of UP. This segment was also represented by actor Rajesh Khanna apart from BJP veterans like AB Vajpayee, LK Advani and Jagmohan Malhotra.

A Delhi Congress leader who watched Sonia and son Rahul take happy selfies at a New Delhi booth today said he would have wanted the top leadership to at least

vote for a Congress nominee. "The Congress' complete diffidence in the face of AAP's hard bargaining in the Delhi seat-sharing deal was unfathomable. AAP argued that though they finished behind the Congress in the New Delhi segment in 2019, they currently hold all Assembly seats of the area. But there is a difference between the Assembly and the General Election. In national elections, the Congress track record as a direct rival to the BJP is better than AAP in Delhi," says former Delhi Congress president Lovely, who recently joined the BJP.

In 2019 when the BJP swept all seven seats in Delhi, the Congress had finished second in five seats as against AAP's two. These seats were East Delhi (Lovely was second and AAP's Atishi third); North East Delhi (late Sheila Dikshit was second); New Delhi (Ajay Maken was second); Chandni Chowk (JP Agarwal was behind BJP's winner

Harsh Vardhan) and West Delhi (BJP's Parvish Verma defeated Congress' Mahabab Mishra). AAP leaders finished second in South Delhi (Raghav Chadha) and North West Delhi (Gugan Singh). Also, three AAP candidates (Pankaj Gupta from Chandki Chowk; Dilip Pandey from North East and Brijesh Goyal from New Delhi) lost security deposits against only one of the Congress—boxer Vijender Singh who contested from South Delhi. Vijender is also with the BJP now while Mahabab Mishra contested West Delhi on the AAP ticket.

Congress workers privately fear that AAP may further dent the Congress presence in Delhi. They cite the 2013 move when the Congress backed AAP's bid at government formation in Delhi. AAP swept subsequent Assembly elections while the Congress was wiped out in a state where its leader Sheila Dikshit was the CM thrice from 1998 to 2013.

Oppn doing mujra to woo vote bank...

Bengal. He repeated his 'mujra' jibe here saying, "Bihar is the land which has given a new direction to the fight for social justice. These RJD people who keep doing 'mujra' with their lantern (poll symbol) lack the courage to speak a word in protest."

The PM's remarks drew a sharp response from the Opposition, including Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who said the PM must maintain the decorum of his post. "Modi ji has used such words for opposition leaders as no other Prime Minister in the country's history has ever used. The entire country respects the post of the Prime Minister. We do too. The trust and aspirations of the people were once linked

to Modi ji. So is it not Modi ji's responsibility to maintain the dignity of the post? Today the way he is speaking, it is unfortunate that his reality is getting exposed," Priyanka said, addressing a joint rally with INDIA bloc partner SP's Akhilesh Yadav in Gorakhpur.

Criticising the PM's 'mujra' take, former Bihar Deputy CM and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said that with each phase of the election, Modi's "discourse was worsening". "He is speaking a language that even his supporters do not like. Our 17-month government conducted a caste-based survey and provided 75 per cent reservation. I ask Modi: which BJP-ruled state has 75 per cent reservation?" said Yadav. — TNS

Municipal Corporation Chandigarh advertisement for Property Tax/Service Charge. Includes public notice, important dates table, mode of payment, and contact information.



# Bridegrooms Wanted

**SAINI**  
Saini Sikh girl Nov. 1987, 5'-11", Masters, Software Analyst, Canada Citizen. Preferred Canada PR / Citizen. 78371-33729. (CL24018557)

**CHRISTIAN**  
Suitable match for Protestant Christian girl B.Sc Nursing 30 yrs, 5'-3". Working at Canada. Mob: 9872311237. (CL24017655)

**AHLUWALIA**  
NRI parents looking for a qualified match for their daughter age 25, height 5'-4", done B.Sc. in Medical Imaging (working). NRI Sikh Ahluwalia preferred. Ph: +64 22 024 7982. (CL24017976)

**MUSLIM**  
Suitable match for beautiful slim Punjabi Saini Sikh girl, October 1991, 5'-3", B.Tech (CSE). PR Canada. 96465-88959, 98765-52059. (CL24017914)

**SAINI**  
Saini Sikh girl USA studying M.Sc. Physics, 28, 5'-5", vegetarian seeks USA well settled educated match. 81466-61170. (CL24018408)

**RAJPUT**  
SM4 beautiful, tall, slim, fair, Maid Rajput girl, Nov. 91, 5'-6", Post Graduated, seeking for well settled match. Call/WhatsApp: 98767-74843. (CL24017211)

**25, 5'-5", B.Sc. Nursing Canada PR**, Rajput girl want suitable match. 96856-59018, 91095-15613. (CL24017952)

**US Citizen NRI Rajput girl Ph.D.**, June 90, 5'-11", working as Clinical Psychologist, seeks professionally educated groom. Proposals invited from US & Canada as well. Mob. No.: 83509-93964. (CL24018139)

**Match for (Verma) girl 5'-3", 1993**, B.Tech. working MNC, Gurgaon, excellent package. 94657-56586. (CL24018315)

**Well educated, Sikh Rajput family** seeks professionally qualified match from reputed Rajput family for their daughter, April 1993 born, 5'-4", M.Com. (Hons.) from PU, employed. Bureau excuse. Contact: 98725-21218, 90416-21481, Email: bsmhina1957@gmail.com (CL24018423)

**Match for issues-divorcee Rajput** girl, M.Sc., 5'-2", 27.10.1992, 7:15 a.m., Kangra (HP). Working in Govt. Hospital at Chandigarh on contract. Tricity preferred. 98728-35692. (CL24018427)

**Suitable match for Kashyap Rajput** Manglik girl, 5'-3", DoB: 20.02.1996, B. Pharma, working as Production Executive. Caste no bar. Contact: 99155-21847. (CL24018820)

**SM for beautiful, fair, Kashyap Rajput** Mehra girl, 5'-3"/15.10.1995, B.Sc. MBA, B.Ed, working as teacher Pvt school at Panchkula, Haryana, 4 LPA, Pure veg family, well settled in Chandigarh Tricity preferred. Mob: Mother 83603-01128. (CL24018996)

**PR Canada beautiful, fair girl** 29.10.1995, 5'-5", 2:55 pm, Chandigarh, Preferred Punjab. 98149-10739. (CL24019114)

**SM for Himachali girl, 30.12.1993**, 6:00 p.m., born Palampur, 5'-2", B.Tech. IT, PG (Cyber Security), working as Project Manager MNC Chandigarh, 21.50 Lacs PA, Preference Tricity/Himachali. 88377-49184. (CL24017181)

**Suitable boy (Ph.D) settled in** Chandigarh, Mohali for Himachali girl, 23 March 1992, Ph.D, working at IISER, Mohali, 98720-14446. (CL24017233)

**Himachali Rajput girl Ph.D.** Chemistry, TET qualified, 5'-5", 30.06.1992, 6:35 am. Preferably require suitable Himachali boy. M: 98056-45799. (CL24017301)

**Suitable qualified, well settled** preferably Govt employee match for beautiful Rajput girl, 1995 born, 5'-5", M.Sc. Physics, B.Ed. Govt. Lecturer. Doaba preferred. Marriage bureau excuse. Contact: 8699192298, 9459123768. (CL24017306)

**Match for Mehra Rajput girl**, 09.02.1988, 5'-4", B.Ed, M.Com,ETT and working as Private School Teacher. 62809-83411. (CL24018898)

**Match for homely fair complexion** beautiful Graduate Rajput girl 32/5-4". Contact: 87000-34354. (CL24019374)

**Looking for suitable well educated** well established boy preferably PR Canadian citizen for Hindu Rajput girl, 1996, 5'-2", living Canada Montreal Post Graduation Degree, send biodata photo on WhatsApp: 98155-01722. (CL24019076)

**Looking suitable match for** Canadian Citizen, Hindu Punjabi Rajput girl, 1991/5-3", pure vegetarian living in Toronto, Canada with Bachelor's Degree. Seeking suitable well educated boy preferably Canada PR/Citizen. Send biodata and photos on WhatsApp 647-787-6133. (CL24019143)

**Vegetarian and well settled match** for Verma (Ashi) girl, 09.09.1994, 5'-5", M.Com, MBA, Fair Businesswoman. Ludhiana. 94175-25165, 98885-05979. (CL24019151)

**Vegetarian and well settled match** required for Verma (Ashi) girl, 15.07.1992, 5'-4", M.Com, MBA, UGC, Lecturer in College. Fair businesswoman Ludhiana. 94175-25165, 98885-05979. (CL24019153)

**Suitable match for Thakur Rajput** Rana girl born Dec. 1997, Height 5'-4", B.Sc. Finance and Taxlaw, born and citizen The Netherlands. We are looking for well educated and financial independent for our daughter we prefer someone who is understanding, down to earth and willing to support each other's personal and professional growth. Never matter boy from India and abroad. Contact: 82645-41863. (CL24019186)

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## DOCTOR/ENGINEER

**For beautiful Doctor girl 29/ 5'-4"**, MBBS MD, Canada PR, Doc/ NRI only. 98997-55114. (CL24017652)

**MD/MS/ MDS for MDS Endodontist** Hindu Khatri girl 1993/ 5'-1", Ludhiana. Bureau excuse. 94636-59322. (CL24012297)

**Dentist BDS 1999 born**, Garg girl, 5'-5". Contact: 98722-94620, 90413-10501. (CL24017381)

**Suitable match for Saini Sikh girl**, 1989, 5'-4", MBBS, MD Pathology, Working in Punjab Govt as PCMS-1. Preferences Doctor or Class-I Officers. 94633-66764. (CL24017792)

**SM for MBBS pursuing MS** Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ramdasia beautiful girl, July 94 born, 5'-7". Seeks Doctor boy. 89686-67176. (CL24018368)

**Ramdasia Sikh BDS Doctor girl** 1994, 5'-3". Caste no bar. Abroad excuse 99144-02999. (CL24018391)

**Suitable Medico match for MBBS** DNB Pediatrics, 32 yrs, Hindu Arora slim, fair, Complexioned, 5'-11", Punjabi girl working as a SR in Pvt. Hospital in Tricity. 92566-11166, 81464-87400. (CL24018440)

**Dentist Doctor beautiful Sharma** girl 1993, Manglik, 5'-5", required. Gazetted Officer/ Industrialist business family. 92177-75414. (CL24018635)

**Seeking groom for 1993/ 5'-8"** girl, MBBS MD Biochemistry, Senior Resident Chandigarh, Tonk Kshatriya, Caste no bar. 98726-00631. (CL24019028)

**Hindu Arora girl, September 91**, height 5'-5", MD Gynecologist, Sr PGI, Chandigarh. Marriage bureau excuse. 70875-17919. (CL24019070)

**Suitable match Preferably Medico** for MBBS, MD (Paediatrics), Hindu Khatri, fair, beautiful, 5'-5", December 1993 born, Doctor girl, Chandigarh (Tricity) resident, well established practice. Good income. Contact/WhatsApp: 70093-03297. (CL24019091)

**Affluent Family of Doctors, seeks** Doctor, IAS, Businessman match for MD Doctor girl 5'-2"/33 Tricity preferred, Own Hospital Chandigarh. 98788-64745, 98151-64745. (CL24019096)

**Match for Sikh Ahluwalia beautiful** Doctor girl, MBBS, 1996/5'-3", Canada PR Pursuing Residency, USMLE Step 2nd cleared, Score 249. Doctors family of Punjab. Looking for Turbaned Sikh Doctor boy doing or Pursuing Residency 98885-50429. (CL24019239)

**Suitable match for SC MBBS** DCP in CRPF divorcee girl 33/5'-7". Mob: 7589425955, 9464908184. (CL24012831)

**Beautiful Rajput girl, 20.12.94**, 5'-5", MBBS MD, doing super speciality Degree. 98887-43866, 62835-45223. (CL24014373)

**Match for Saini Sikh slim girl**, January 1989, 5'-3", MD (Anesthesia), DNB(Critical Care Medicine), Consultant in private Hospital, Mohali. Call 95015-88455. (CL24014775)

**MD match for MBBS, MD** (Psychiatry), Ramdasia girl, 1990, 5'-5", Medical Officer (Specialist) reputed hospital, 94640-43995 (Patiala). (CL24017158)

**Suitable match for Ravidasia girl**, DOB: 23.07.1989, height 5'-5", MD (Anaesthesia) from PGI Chandigarh, presently working as Sr. Clinical Fellow in Wolverhampton (United Kingdom). Father Doctor, Mother Teacher. Seeking Doctor/Medico settled in UK. Please send complete profile on WhatsApp: +91-96461-21707. (CL24015141)

**Punjabi Arora girl Medical Officer** (HCMS), DoB 1995, height 5'-3", Manglik. Phone No. 98965-64400. (CL24017468)

**Suitable vegetarian match for Mazhi** Sikh BDS girl, 1995/5'-6", own clinic Jalandhar. Father Class-1 Railway Officer, Brother Canada PR. 94175-49764, 94179-67467. (CL24017505)

**Medico (MD/ MS/ MDS)/ Civil** Services match for Chandigarh based Aggarwal girl, 30/5'-5", MBBS, MD (Psychiatry), doing job in Pvt. Hospital. Contact: 73763-08600. (CL24017684)

**Medico/ Officer match for MBBS**, MD Microbiology slim, fair, Saini girl, 88 born, 5'-2", Senior Resident, Sister MD Doctor married with DM Neuroanaesthesia well settled, Father Professor in Pvt. Medical College, Patiala based family. Contact: 94172-43263. (CL24017734)

**Non-drinker, non-trimmer, pure** veg, Medico/Non-medico match for MD Radiology, Amritdhari girl, 22.09.1990, 5'-5", 9888776842. (CL24017884)

**DM/Mch/MD/MS/MBBS Jatt Sikh** Doctor match for MD Medicine Daughter, 1994 born, 5'-2". Contact No. 98554-96501. (CL24017887)

**Suitable match for Sept 1989**, 5'-2" MBBS DA Anesthesia SC, vegetarian girl, working in corporate sector. Brother & sister-in-law, both doctors. Contact: +91-62394-43965. (CL24017889)

**Doctor match for beautiful, slim** and fair single girl, pursuing MBS, 25y, 5'-4", 97795-86401, 84371-66620. (CL24017927)

**Medico match for MD Microbiology**, Dec 1993 born, 5'-5", Arora/Khatri slim girl doing SRSHP PGI Rohk Doctors family. 98120-76674. (CL24018170)

**Match for BDS Manglik Brahmin** girl, 5'-6", 31.8.1993, 9:25 am, Patiala. Preferred Medicos/ Govt. job. 83604-18996, 94632-07694. (CL24018182)

**Match for MBBS, MD, fair**, beautiful Rajput girl, 5'-3", 37, 70183-56778. (CL24018246)

**Hindu Doctor girl 1996/ 5'-5"**, MBBS, MS OBS-Gynae, working Senior Resident. Caste no bar. 91092-21156. (CL24018958)

**Saini girl 1994, 5'-6", M.Sc. Nursing** Officer PGI, caste no bar. 78762-74962, 94185-7345. (CL24019008)

**Elite match for Jatt Sikh Doctor MD** (Gynae) girl, 1995, 5'-4", S.R.- Govt. hospital. Highly status Doctor/ Businessman/ Officer. Tricity preferred. WhatsApp: 98764-91897. (CL24019040)

**MD, MS, MCh match for Lubana** Sikh girl, Sept. 92, 5'-4", MBBS, MS General Surgery Senior Resident at Govt. Hospital. Contact No. 76966-35906. (CL24019066)

# Matrimonials

**Doctor match for Jatt Sikh 1994/ 5'-5"**, MD Medicine girl, working AP. Contact: 68288-42667. (CL24019046)

**Medico match for Sikh Saini** beautiful, slim, fair girl September '92, 5'-3", MD Anesthesia pursuing DM Critical Care from Delhi. Call: 85955-16703. (CL24019141)

**Match for MD Medicine Garg girl** 5'-2", 26 yrs, Jaitu (Punjab) residence. Contact: 98761-20323, 94175-44323. (CL24019142)

**Required match for BAMS/ MBA** Hindu girl, 1994, 5'-2", working as Unit Head in reputed Hospital. Preference Doctor/ well settled businessman preferred area Amritsar, Pathankot, Gurdaspur. Contact: 98786-86087. (CL24019350)

**Match Hindu Khatri girl 1991**, MBBS, DNB Anaesthesia, doing Fellowship Critical Care BHU. 76963-87440, 94641-47153. (CL24019356)

## SCHEDULED CASTES

**Suitable qualified Ramdasia Sikh** match for Chandigarh based convent educated Bachelor of Architecture Architect girl, 1989, 5'-4", Mob. No.: 82849-06132. (CL24016733)

**Match for Ad-dharmi, beautiful** girl 1990 born, 5'-4", Ph.D Chemistry. 83750-54579. love.sohani11@gmail.com (CL24018925)

**Match for Ravidasia girl 5'-3"**, 1986, 10+2, Fashion Designing running own Boutique Chandigarh based. 98781-71805. (CL24017628)

**Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh** girl October 1989, Government job Senior Assistant. Contact Ropar, Mohali, Chandigarh around only. 88722-52850, 95308-03182. (CL24017752)

**Ravidasia, unmarried, working girl**, 86, 5'-4", M.Tech. Seeks match in Govt job own business, Ludhiana only. 94649-64942. (CL24017802)

**Suitable NRI match for Doaba** based Biota PR Adharmi girl 1996, 5'-2". Send Biodata 90411-70858. (CL24018364)

**Wanted respectful boy for Ph.D girl**, 1989/5", cleared PTE and applied for Australia. Call 78141-83530. (CL24018401)

**Ramdasia Sikh BDS Doctor girl** 1994, 5'-3", abroad excuse. 99144-02999. (CL24018410)

**Brief marriage well educated Sober** Jatt girl 5'-6"/90, belongs to Respectable Chandigarh family. 94177-21104. (CL24019060)

**Suitable match for Schedule caste** Valmiki MA/ MEd. Legally divorced, 1987 born girl, doing Private job, and having 6 year old son. Father Retd. Chief Manager from SBI. Brother Bhabi Doctors. Younger sister in SBI, no bar. 94653-45141. (CL24019103)

**34/168, Australian citizen, IT** Engineer, no issues. Required similar status match. Email: earthsky2024@outlook.com. Dealers excuse. (CL24017153)

**Beautiful fair Aggarwal issuesee** divorcee girl, April 1989, 5'-5", working Noida, 70 Lakh + p.a. 98146-09886. (Patiala). (CL24017369)

**Govt/ MNC employee match** for 91 born, 5'-9", divorcee Jindal Govt. Bank Officer. 98550-18474. (CL24017422)

**(Kabirpanthi SC) 1989/ 5'-3"**, Post Graduate, divorced girl, job Chandigarh. Himachali family living Zirakpur, father retired, searching match nearby Chandigarh. Contact: 88470-59126, 70094-28183. (CL24017433)

**SM for Hindu Khatri 1986, issuesee** divorcee girl, 5'-2". Preference to Ludhiana region. 99158-00578. (CL24017637)

**Suitable match for Singla girl, born** 1991, 5'-3", Pb. Govt. employee, divorcee. Contact: 97792-62955. (CL24018914)

**SM4 BA, LLB, divorced, 1996**, 5'-4", Khatri girl. Contact: 82888-38536. (CL24018946)

**Mohali based Sikh Rajput divorcee** girl 1992/ 5", B.Sc. B.Ed., Canada visitor visa. 98143-88614. (CL24018957)

**Divorcee, Gaur Brahmin girl** 26.6.1989, M.Sc. in Microbiology, working Lab Technician in a hospital, residence Zirakpur. 96463-98449. (CL24019020)

**Sharma divorcee girl 30/5'-2"**, Diploma, one daughter, prefer Amritsar, settled boy, Caste no bar. 62808-16020. (CL24019049)

**Match for Aggarwal BAMS Doctor** girl, Punjab Government permanent job, beautiful, fair, slim, 5'-4", 1980 born, issuesee divorcee. Looks much younger. 76960-37849. (CL24019087)

**Divorcee issuesee Hindu Arora** Radhassami girl Govt. Teacher, 5'-11", 25.12.88, 12.15 am., Ludhiana. Ludhiana preferred. 81466-07348. (CL24019090)

**Ramdasia Sikh Govt. Teacher** divorcee girl 1993/ 5'-5", M.Com, B.Ed., looking for good family. Caste no bar. 90563-63382. (CL24019276)

## WIDOW

**Beautiful, Brahmin widow, slim**, 44, 5'-5", PhD. Looking for well educated boy. 89556-94758. (CL24017794)

**SM4 Sarawat Brahmin beautiful** 78 born issuesee widow, M.Com, 5'-4", Govt. job. 77102-59901. (CL24018920)

**Aggarwal 52 years lady, very** beautiful attractive, smart, highly educated only well settled contact: 87087-16979. (CL24019123)

## MANGLIK

**Sood manglik fair girl 11.09.1991**, 07:34 p.m., Ldh., 5'-5", MBA. 96469-60676. (CL24019226)

**Suitable match for beautiful** Agarwal Manglik girl 25, 5'-3", B.Tech. Contact: 98269-03421, 78990-49959. (CL24018972)

**Match Canada citizen Ramdasia** Sikh divorced girl, 5'-3", 1991, Software Developer, Boy Canada PR preference Ontario. Caste no bar. 98777-47105, 9501029128. (CL24018156)

**Qualified match for Sikh never** married, 1982 born, 5'-4", fair, Australian educated and citizen girl, working in very senior position. Family professional and well settled in Australia. Email: a.g.u.a.t.i.c.p.l.l.23@gmail.com (CL24018282)

**Canada PR (Employed) Jatt Sikh** beautiful girl May 1997, 5'-9", Health Management Canada. Preferred Canada Settled boy. 90509-95102. (CL24018587)

**Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh** Canada PR girl 23.11.97, 5'-2", study in IT. Parents Govt. job. Brother also in Canada at work permit. Seeks well educated Ramdasia Sikh turbaned boy. Preferred Doaba. 98155-62508. (CL24019130)

**Adharmi girl 5'-4", Nov. 1986**, LL.M, NET, JRF, Ph.D, Assistant Professor Govt. University. 94646-77510. (CL24019139)

**Match for Ravidasia BDS girl 1997/ 5'-2"**, Own Dental Clinic. Preferred MBBS, MDS, BDS, Govt. Job. 94630-93021. (CL24019161)

**Ramdasia Sikh girl, Jan. 1995**, 5'-3", M.Sc. Biotechnology, Private organization, wanted groom well settled, preference Tricity diabetic from last 2 years. 87087-46578, 89507-99817, 94164-31283. (CL24019232)

**SC Ad-dharmi 1993, 5'-4"**, Govt. job required Govt. employee Radha Soami family. 78891-85037. (CL24019290)

## DIVORCEE

**Suitable match (Delhi/ Gurgaon)** for Govt. Assistant Professor. October 1982 born, fair, slim 5 ft. (no kid). ana.uehal01@gmail.com (CL24017370)

**26, 5'-4", B.Tech., Android** Developer, New Zealand PR, divorcee (1 month) girl want suitable match. 88788-65398, 82693-31873. (CL24018164)

**Punjabi Khatri Divorcee Girl, 35/ 5'-3"**, Qual: MCA, B.Ed. Seeking match from status family, well settled, educated, Unmarried/ Divorcee boy. Upper caste no bar. Ph: 76962-71243. (CL24018310)

**Divorced short marriage issuesee** Saini Sikh Jatt Sikh girl, 5'-6", 1986, M.Sc. Botany Med Govt. Science Teacher. Educated family. Govt job & Patiala Tricity preferred. Upper caste no bar. 79865-15980. (CL24017900)

**Baniya match for issuesee divorcee** girl, 1993/5'-6". M.Sc. IT, B.Ed., B.A., PGT in Private School. Father Businessman Chandigarh. Required well educated settled boy. Preferred-Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula. Caste no bar. Contact: 73555-5131, 98888-03585. (CL24018850)

**Brief marriage well educated Sober** Jatt girl 5'-6"/90, belongs to Respectable Chandigarh family. 94177-21104. (CL24019060)

**Suitable match for Schedule caste** Valmiki MA/ MEd. Legally divorced, 1987 born girl, doing Private job, and having 6 year old son. Father Retd. Chief Manager from SBI. Brother Bhabi Doctors. Younger sister in SBI, no bar. 94653-45141. (CL24019103)

**34/168, Australian citizen, IT** Engineer, no issues. Required similar status match. Email: earthsky2024@outlook.com. Dealers excuse. (CL24017153)

**Beautiful fair Aggarwal issuesee** divorcee girl, April 1989, 5'-5", working Noida, 70 Lakh + p.a. 98146-09886. (Patiala). (CL24017369)

**Govt/ MNC employee match** for 91 born, 5'-9", divorcee Jindal Govt. Bank Officer. 98550-18474. (CL24017422)

**(Kabirpanthi SC) 1989/ 5'-3"**, Post Graduate, divorced girl, job Chandigarh. Himachali family living Zirakpur, father retired, searching match nearby Chandigarh. Contact: 88470-59126, 70094-28183. (CL24017433)

**SM for Hindu Khatri 1986, issuesee** divorcee girl, 5'-2". Preference to Ludhiana region. 99158-00578. (CL24017637)

**Suitable match for Singla girl, born** 1991, 5'-3", Pb. Govt. employee, divorcee. Contact: 97792-62955. (CL24018914)

**SM4 BA, LLB, divorced, 1996**, 5'-4", Khatri girl. Contact: 82888-

JAT SIKH

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl (26.01.1993), 5'-4", MBA. We are well reputed vegetarian family with strong background. Seeks vegetarian and non-drinker groom with 40-45 acre land. Distt. (Fazilka), 98724-14632, 97790-45570. (CL24017222)

Seeking well qualified match for Australian citizen girl, 1984, 5'-3", short term divorced without kids, MSC IT, Graduate in Nursing, working as a RN. Email: bron15353@gmail.com Contact number: 0435879005. (CL24017384)

Suitable match sought for MBBS, fair, beautiful Jatt Sikh girl, 2001/5'-2". Civil Services, Doctor, Army Officer match sought, daughter of a serving Army Officer. Contact via Email at 75sandhar@gmail.com (CL24018494)

Well-educated Jatt Sikh family seeking well settled match for their Australian citizen daughter 40, 5'-5", fair, beautiful and never married. Highly educated with double Masters degrees, working as a Senior Manager in a MNC. Family well-settled in Australia 20+ years, working at reputable positions. Please Email details with recent pics at ozsydney321@gmail.com (CL24017862)

Suitable match with equivalent qualification for Jatt Sikh girl, 35, MDS, fair and 5'-7" tall. Email: ravindermander32@yahoo.co.in, 98558-46866. (CL24017278)

Mohali based Jatt Sikh family seeks alliance for their daughter, 1991, 5'-3", working as Group A Officer in Punjab Govt. Father and Mother retired as Class 1 officers. Suitable match required from status family. WhatsApp complete biodata and latest pics on 94170-36538. (CL24017782)

Well settled and highly qualified employed Jatt Sikh match from Australia for Jatt Sikh Sandhu beautiful girl 5'-9", Nov. 95 born, convent educated, Masters in Finance from UNSW Australia, Chief Economist with a reputed company in Sydney, highly paid. Father Class-1 Officer (Rtd), Mother Govt. Lecturer, small well settled family at Mohali. bssandhu.mohali@gmail.com (CL24018166)

Jatt Sikh Advocate girl (Canada) 1996, 5'-6", looking for equal match Canada PR boy, 94172-09127, 94177-6092. (CL24018337)

Seeking Jatt Sikh groom for girl 90 born 5'-11" M.Tech, PR Canada with IT job. Trinity preferred. 2024mangta@gmail.com, 9417925268 (CL24018507)

Jatt Sikh Khaira family seeking suitable match for their Canadian citizen daughter 5'-5", born 1988, registered nurse divorce after short marriage. Boy should be tall and professionally educated. Contact:- 431-373-9884, email: Mohanshng22@gmail.com, with biodata and recent pictures. Marriage bureau excused. (CL24018639)

SM4 Jatt Sikh girl, M.A (Punjab), B.Ed, 5'-3", 26.7.1994. Contact: 82647-00972. (CL24017943)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl, 95, 5'-4", B.Sc. Nursing PGI preferred Educated doing job PR Canada, Australia, USA, match Amritsar. 96460-20067. (CL24017471)

Seeking Jatt Sikh match for beautiful Jatt Sikh girl, 5'-7"/33, working as Engineer in USA. Whatsapp: +1-7165087011. (CL24018976)

Jatt Sikh, Chandigarh based, unmarried, slim, fair girl 42/ 5'-5", BA, PGDCA Diploma. Seeking suitable match. 84279-19069. (CL24019258)

Well settled business class family from Chandigarh/ Mohali seek decent match for Professionally Architect Master from Canada fair, intelligent, confident vegetarian family born 1992, height 5'-3". We are looking handsome well educated, intelligent, sincere, business upper class vegetarian boy in U.S./A.K. preferably Chandigarh/ Mohali cities. Contact: 76967-5169. (CL24016223)

Suitable match (Businessman/ Officer) for Group-A Officer (Pb Govt.) Jatt Sikh girl, Ph.D., 5'-4", October 1989. Bureau Excuse. 98154-84644. (CL24017443)

Jatt Sikh Grewal girl, 1991/ 5'-3", B.Sc. Nursing. Wanted PR Canada boy. 98787-59105, 98767-99137 (Distt. Patiala). (CL24017449)

SM for beautiful, B.Tech., MBA, Jatt Sikh Chahal, Canadian PR, born 1997, 5'-8", working as Senior Software Engineer. Contact: 96461-18862. (CL24017610)

Beautiful Jatt Sikh 26 / 5'-5", girl Waterloo Graduate working PR awarded parents Gazetted Officers. 95010 31148 (CL24018954)

Seeking turbaned Jatt Sikh qualified match for two Jatt Sikh, vegetarian beautiful girls, January 1996, 5'-3", Bachelor in Medical Science/ May 1997, 5'-4", Bachelor in Medical Science. Both USA citizens. Contact: 94170-04181. (CL24017680)

Sydney based well settled Grewal Jatt Sikh family looking for PR/ Citizen boy for 1997 Australian born girl. Degree in Business. Employment consultants earning over \$ 100,000/- annum. Sydney based Australian preferred. Contact: WhatsApp +9181460-85490. (CL24018988)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl Canada PR, March 1996, 5'-6", Master of Engineering (Computer Science) from Canadian University. Working as a Software Developer. 95011-05530. (CL24018995)

Bains Double M.Tech., B.Tech., girl 35/ 5'-4", fair colour Canadian Citizen Govt job AI Scientist. Father Army Retired. Brother Sister in Canada. WhatsApp Details: 98766-60133. (CL24018997)

Suitable well qualified match for beautiful Jatt Sikh (Gill) convent educated Canadian PR Physiotherapist 99 born, 5'-7" girl, preferred Ludhiana based family. 98723-27913. (CL24019010)

Suitable match for beautiful, smart Canada PR Jatt-Sikh girl, Managerial job at MNC in Canada, 29, 5'-5", belongs to reputed Upper middle class family. Well settled in Canada boy preferred. Respond with full biodata. 97801-64841. (CL24019041)

Jatt Sikh girl, Canadian citizen, 1992 born, height 5'-4", working as Nurse Practitioner in USA. Required MBBS, MD Doctor, Veterinary Doctor, Chartered Accountant, Lawyer or Engineer. Contact: 001-416-884-5486. (CL24019068)

Jatt Sikh Sidhu 28/ 5'-5", M.Sc (Math), Diploma H.R Management Canada, Canada residence girl. Required reputed family boy (Bathinda preferred). 62846-08183. (CL24019104)

Match for Jatt Sikh girl, 1990, 5'-3", PHD Zoology, Prof in Private University. Good businessman/ Govt. officer preferred. Contact: 95922-13140. (CL24019128)

Suitable match for Jatt Sikh girl born 93, 5'-7", M.Tech Canada citizen Malwa preferred. Contact: 76578-16810. (CL24019144)

Extremely beautiful Jatt Sikh girl 29 yr, 5'-6", BDS & MDS, Doctor, Patiala. WhatsApp +91 91155-39332. (CL24019146)

Match required for beautiful Jatt Sikh girl, 5'-5", Jan 1996 born, M.Sc Maths, B.Ed, currently holding Canada work permit. Seeking PR Canada or a well educated boy from tricity. Contact 9646503640 (CL24019155)

Dr./Vet. Dr./ Officer match for Veterinary Officer (PAHS-1) Jatt Sikh 1996, 5'-5" girl only Jatt Sikh contact. Bureau excuse. WhatsApp: 84275-19202. (CL24019160)

Match for beautiful Canada PR from well educated, well settled Jatt Sikh Dhillon girl 1994/ 5'-5", B.Tech. (CS) PG AAILM working as Software Engineer in MNC, Holds US Work Visa. WhatsApp 98552-96559. (CL24019176)

Wanted Jatt-Sikh professionally qualified groom settled or willing to settle in Canada/ US for 1994 born, 5'-4" girl, working as senior executive in a leading financial institute in Canada. Respond with detailed profile and pics on WhatsApp: +91-98705-64908. (CL24019219)

Jatt Sikh girl 2002, 5'-9", Brampton Canada work permit. Parents from Madhya Pradesh, drug free, Khandani, PR, citizen boy required. 79861-32306, Doaba, Chandigarh, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib preferred. (CL24019235)

Jatt-Sikh Australian PR girl 1995/ 5'-7", B.Sc. Nursing. Required India/ NRI family. 62394-83097. (CL24019273)

Jatt-Sikh UK PR girl 1996/ 5'-4", Masters in International Marketing (London), looking for good family. Caste no bar. 98555-11185. (CL24019274)

Army Major MNS Officer Jatt Sikh girl 1993, H. 163 cm, wants Gursikh/ Vaishnu Officer N, 94164-89913. (CL24019001)

Jatt-Sikh American greencard holder girl 1996/ 5'-7", Masters of Engineering. Required well educated Indian/ NRI family. 85449-57192. (CL24019277)

SIKH

Sikh girl 1989, 5'-5", Teacher, looking for a match in Tricity. Contact: 77400-59921. (CL24017333)

Match for beautiful Sikh girl 28/ 5'-5", B.Tech, M.Tech working, Canada PR, preferred also Australia, USA, 98932-43566, 81090-46128. (CL24018137)

Suitable Amritdhari match for Gursikh Amritdhari Keshidhri Ramdasia Sikh girl 5'4" Dec 1990 MBA Federal job USA Citizen WhatsApp +0015104159442 (CL24019057)

Suitable match for beautiful and educated Ramdasia Sikh girl, 10.09.1989, 5'-11", Profession: Fashion Designer with stylist. 9779-700520, 98767-11153. (CL24019221)

Suitable match for Ramdasia Sikh girl 1995, 5'-11", BDS, Canada PR (Nirankari family), Canada settled boy only (Medical Line Preferred). 81267-68044. (CL24019227)

Looking suitable match for Saini girl, 31.12.1994, 5'-11", M.Sc. Math, B.Ed, PSTET, CTET. City area preferred. Cont: 9592400470, 9815008514. (CL24017268)

Canada/US PR/Citizen, Engineer/Doctor match for Sikh Ahluwalia beautiful slim Canada PR girl, 1997 born, 5'-5", Convent educated, B.Tech in Electronics Engineering, M.Eng in Cyber security from Canada. Working in MNC. Family based in Chandigarh/Mohali. +91-7888804899. +91-9814957558 (CL24017813)

Professionally qualified well settled match for fair, Sikh Kashyap Rajput, Nov. 88, 5'-5", M.A, B.Ed. Homey girl, Language trainer. 97799-74765. (CL24018770)

Brahmin Sikh girl 5'-4", 21.12.1979, fair complexion, Ph.D, PR Canada, now in India. Divorcee excuse. Contact: 95012-80648. (CL24018931)

Sikh Khatri girl unmarried 44/ 5'-3", BA, seeks Sikh Arora Khatri family Amritsar. Well settled f amily. Contact: 97815-01501. (CL24018960)

Suitable match for Ramdasia beautiful Sikh girl 33, 5'-2", MBBS, MD (Radiation Oncology) PCMS-1 Govt. job. Preferred Doctor or Class-I Officer. 70872-64275, 82830-26174. (CL24018968)

Kashyap Rajput Sikh girl 5'-5", 1994, M.Tech. (ECE), Senior Research Fellow (PAU). Father retired Professor (PAU). Ludhiana based family. Caste no bar. 85588-80728, 98880-20728 (CL24019074)

Match for Sikh girl, 31/5'-2", M.Com slim, smart, permanent transferable semi govt. job in Chandigarh. Qualified boy with good income Sikh/outsider. Upper caste no bar. Contact: 6283382544 (CL24019191)

SIKH KHATRI

PQM for beautiful Sikh Khatri girl 5'-4", Oct 1991 born, PR Canada. Contact 98154-80235. (CL24017552)

Suitable match for 37/5'-4", Post Graduate, Diabetic girl, Lecturer in Chandigarh. Contact: 97811-21224. (CL24018141)

Arora Sikh beautiful 29, 5'-5", Master Degree very high status family suitable outsider boy. 86995-99347. (CL24019268)

Patiala based Sikh girl M.Tech. 1989/5'-2". Employed qualified, non-drinker, preferred or business match. 94648-91838. (CL24017483)

ND/NT match for Sikh Khatri girl, Oct.1988/ 5'-3"/7", B.Tech., working in MNC. 96463-31600. (CL24018731)

Suitable match for beautiful Sikh Khatri girl, 24, 5'-5", B.Tech. Contact: 98269-07794, 83190-91270. (CL24018969)

SIKH KHATRI/ARORA

Alliance from professionally qualified well established business family match for beautiful convent educated Architect girl, 27, 5'-3". Prefer status Sikh Khatri/ Arora family. Whatsapp: 90410-4027. (CL24019360)

MD/ MS/ DM match for Sikh Arora Khatri girl, Nov. 1993 born, 5'-3", fair, slim, beautiful MBBS, MD (Medicine). Tricity preferred. Contact: 98882-45688. (CL24017228)

Sikh, Bhatia girl, Nov. 1994, 5', Masters in Physics, parents Govt. service. Wanted well settled boy. Contact: 78886-81042. (CL24017869)

Slm beautiful Amritsar girl, BA, 5'-2"/37, never married looks younger preferred Amritsar. 98761-11829. (CL24017663)

Match for Arora Gursikh beautiful MBBS, MD, Oct. 89, 5'-4" girl, Senior Resident. Whatsapp: 97804-45478 (CL24019094)

RAMGARHIA/DHIMAN

Seeks suitable match for well educated, beautiful, Ramgarhia Sikh girl, 96 born, 5'-3", M.Sc Chem, B.Ed. Contact: 98555-75485 (CL24017485)

Match for Dhiman girl 27/5'-4", MBA - working MNC, Manglik, vegetarian, preference Tricity, Govt job or MNC, 72069-09102 Caste no bar. (CL24018471)

Ramgarhia girl, 1988, 5'-3", B.Sc. (Med), MBA, Axis Bank, Branch Head, AFD, father Ex-Army Officer (Major). Caste no bar. Contact: 99882-21439. (CL24018508)

Suitable match for Ramgarhia 26/ 5'-3", M.Tech. girl. Heavy Industrialist, well settled. Early, decent marriage. 98147-46176. (CL24019297)

Match for Ramgarhia Sikh Govt. teacher girl, 1990/ 5'-3", Patiala. Upper Caste welcome. Contact 97792-15704. (CL24017391)

Match for Dhiman girl, Ambala, 1995 born, 5'-2", MBA, working in MNC. 99963-24031. (CL24019202)

Match for unmarried Pretty Ramgarhia girl, Non-IT Engineer in bay area California/ USA, 33/ 5'-6", Father red. as HOD from Northern Railways. Preference well qualified boy of Indian Origin, Punjab background, Father's Contact No.8907-630001 (CL24017392)

Match for 93 born Garg Italian citizen girl. Graduation in Electronic Eng. from Italy, height 5'-4". Preference qualified & never married boy from Punjab, Chandigarh (Tricity), Haryana, settled in Europe, Canada, USA. WhatsApp: 0039-329665345, 94163-95287. (CL24018732)

Compatible match for B.Tech. MBA, 35/5'-5"/Mittal, beautiful girl from tricity for Ramgarhia, 5'-3", Oct. 1995, beautiful, fair, smart girl, M.Sc Fashion Designing, working in Chandigarh. 78375-62960, 84277-63917. (CL24017659)

Ramgarhia Sikh girl 1994 / 5'-5", B.Arch from IP university practicing in Architect firm Delhi. 82848 63466 (CL24017997)

Compatible match for Hindu Dhiman vegetarian M.Tech College Lecturer girl, 18/11, July 94, 99966-44653. (CL24018221)

Match for Ramgarhia girl 1986, 5'-7", issueless divorcee (short term) MA, M.Sc. (Psychology) Mohali based well settled family. 98142-57732 (CL24018967)

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

PCS (Judge) 91, 5'-4", smart, educated family. (SC) wanted suitable match. Caste no bar. Mobile: 98140-85890. (CL24018754)

Status match for Kangra unmarried Dhiman girl, 5'-6", 03.09.1989, B.Tech., MBA, Nationalised Bank Officer, Mumbai transferable. Preferred Himachal Govt/ Banking job. Text profile 80912-23156. (CL24017256)

MAHAJAN

Mahajan girl 1996, 5'-3", B.Tech EPGM Senior consultant Noida 14 Laas. Parents Govt. job. 88725-90222 (CL24018463)

Wanted decent match for smart, good looking Mahajan girl DoB 11.05.2000, M.Sc Chemistry, pursuing B.Ed. working in a reputed institute as Chemistry faculty. Contact: 98556-59112. (CL24019150)

AGGARWAL

For Garg girl 28/ 5'-5", BBA, US citizen, settled with parents. Prefer US boy. Ph: +0014694509466. (CL24017349)

PR (applied) Bansal girl, June 1995, 5'-4", beautiful, smart, B.Com (DU), Masters International Business (MIB, Paris), working in Paris, wanted professionally qualified PR/ non PR. Boy willing to settle in Paris/ Europe/ London. Father CA (Ambala based girl). 94165-41028, 94166-86634. (CL24019184)

Professionally qualified match preferred from Tricity, NCR Metro cities for BMM, MBA, working (Advertising), Garg girl 5', June 1993. 98723-76400. (CL24019194)

Match for beautiful Garg girl who Canada work permit, 5'-11", 05.03.1998, Pref PR in USA/Canada only. 99151-11515, 95921-14969. (CL24017350)

Suitable match for Goyal girl, 1.01.1997, 8:15 am, Sangrur, B.Tech. ECE from PEC. Employed at Mohali. Package 14 Lac per annum. Early simple marriage. Contact & WhatsApp: 78884-77942, 98787-53865. (CL24017641)

Wanted a groom for 28 year old smart and independent girl. Height 158 cm, upper-middle class Garg family, pursuing Ph.D final year from IIM- Bangalore. Preference: corporate or independent professionals. Caste no bar. 98559-99773. (CL24017944)

Professional Aggarwal sisters 1996 and 1998, B.Tech, MBA, package 20 Laas. Gurgaon, Hyderabad required status family. 86993-72414. (CL24018598)

Manglik vegetarian Goyal girl 5'-2", 28.1.1995 Panchkula, 11:35 pm, working MNC, preferred tricity. 94175-24959. (CL24018875)

Match for Mar 1986, looks much younger Aggarwal, B.Tech, issueless divorcee, vegetarian, fair, slim, very beautiful girl from Panchkula based status family. Contact- 94783-74568. (CL24019116)

Match for 1997 born, 5', Pb. Govt. JE (Mohali posted), BE Bansal girl. Govt. Officer Punjab/ Chandigarh preferred. 94636-53870. (CL24019158)

Garg match for girl 1998, 5'-2", B.Tech (Computer Science) Software Engineer 30 lacs, working in MNC. 94160-21382. (CL24019167)

Homey Garg un-married 40/ 5'-3", vegetarian Graduate slim girl Aggarwal boy required. 62805-02121, 62800-31938. (CL24019180)

Aggarwal divorcee girl, 32, 5'-6", fair, B.A, B.Ed, high status family required, good job or good businessman. 73474-98039. (CL24019193)

Canadian PR Aggarwal girl 1996, 5'-2.5", MBA, required upper high class boy in Vancouver, USA, Australia Pls. excuse MB. Contact: 79869-66723. (CL24019224)

Match for MS USA working Mittal girl 20.10.1991, 00:50 am, Sangrur, 5'-11", seeks USA boy, 94638-62430. (CL24019271)

Looking for suitable match for August 1993 born, 5'-3" girl, Bania Garg Gotra. B.Tech., MBA, working in ICICI Bank, Mumbai. Contact: 94103-95646. (CL24019141)

Match for Mittal M.D. Doctor, 12.08.1996, 5'-3", 10:15 am, Balbeerha (Patiala), working as Senior Resident Department of Psychiatry GMCH, Sector 32 Chandigarh. Contact/ Whatsapp: 90414-55227. (CL24017156)

Divorcee issueless Bansal beautiful girl 13.41.986, 2.45 pm, Ambala, 5'-3", MA, B.Ed. 94665-10570. (CL24017737)

Wanted suitable match for Aggarwal Garg doctor girl, BDS, MDS (Endodontics), 28, 5'-11", Jalandhar based family. Contact: 9814007390. (CL24017810)

Suitable match from Tricity for beautiful, fair, unmarried Singla girl, 5'-11", 5 November, 1987, M.Tech., Permanent Punjab Govt. job. Chandigarh based educated status family. Send bio-data and photo. 96464-37353, 98147-11609. (CL24018084)

Suitable match for Singla girl (Architect), 22 Jan 1994, 5'-0", 7:45 am. Contact: 94683-54708, 99929-18862. (CL24018185)

Match for 93 born Garg Italian citizen girl. Graduation in Electronic Eng. from Italy, height 5'-4". Preference qualified & never married boy from Punjab, Chandigarh (Tricity), Haryana, settled in Europe, Canada, USA. WhatsApp: 0039-329665345, 94163-95287. (CL24018732)

Compatible match for B.Tech. MBA, 35/5'-5"/Mittal, beautiful girl from tricity for Ramgarhia, 5'-3", Oct. 1995, beautiful, fair, smart girl, M.Sc Fashion Designing, working in Chandigarh. 78375-62960, 84277-63917. (CL24017659)

Ramgarhia Sikh girl 1994 / 5'-5", B.Arch from IP university practicing in Architect firm Delhi. 82848 63466 (CL24017997)

Compatible match for Hindu Dhiman vegetarian M.Tech College Lecturer girl, 18/11, July 94, 99966-44653. (CL24018221)

Match for Ramgarhia girl 1986, 5'-7", issueless divorcee (short term) MA, M.Sc. (Psychology) Mohali based well settled family. 98142-57732 (CL24018967)

NRI Doctor/ MD/ MS/ Officer/ Industrialist match for beautiful fair and homely Goyal girl 14.10.1996, 5'-3", BDS. Father renowned child specialist, mother Gynaecologist. Only brother doing MBBS. Contact: 70091-60007. (CL24019135)

Jindal Doctor girl, 5'-3", born 29.08.1995, 11.45 am, Sunam, MD Pediatrics, seeks Doctor/Civil servant based in Punjab/Haryana. 94639-90100. (CL24019145)

Aggarwal Manglik Mittal girl, 26.02.2002, 6.30 am, 5'-6", Ludhiana BCA. 75290-69239. (CL24019149)

Suitable match for Manglik Garg girl, 23.03.1995, 16:35, Ambala City, M.Tech, Professor. Residence Solan (H.P.). Contact- 88942-75955. (CL24019231)

KHATRI/ARORA

Suitable match from Bangalore/ Pune for Software Professional B.Tech girl 5'-2", 26.07.1992, 09:40 am, PoB Yamunanagar. 98961-58804. (CL24018921)

Arora non-Manglik girl 5'-4", 29.11.1991, 4:05 am, Ph.D, M.Tech, Professor in reputed University Chandigarh. Package 12 Laas. 98962-11537. (CL24019187)

PQM for Punjabi Arora Khatri November 92, 5'-7", B.Tech, MNC Bangalore. Preferred location:- Bangalore, Dubai Hyderabad, Gurgaon. 78884-92180. (CL24017337)

Suitable NRI match for 30, 5'-5" beautiful fair Punjabi Hindu girl Software Engineer Canada. 88720-53299. (CL24017612)

Beautiful, slim, very fair Radhasami girl 27/5'-7", (MBA HR/Mktg) working Delhi NCR, seeks boy (professionally employed in Govt/ private service) from reputed educated middle class family. Alliance invited from vegetarian families only. WhatsApp: 88529-95950. (CL24019106)

Match for Hindu Arora beautiful divorcee girl 23.07.1995, (9:52 am, Jalandhar) 5'-2", B.Com, MBA (India) at present in Toronto (Canada) on study visa. Belongs to well settled business family Jalandhar. Brother sister also in Canada. Contact/ WhatsApp: 99155-84711. (CL24019182)

Manglik/ Non-Manglik never married beautiful 19.12.78, 10:40 am, Ludhiana, 5'-2", Govt. Lecturer. 94174-67788. (CL24019207)

November 1990/ 5'-5", M.Sc, Ph.D Ludhiana. Contact Australia/ NZ/ Canada based highly educated, working professionals (1988 to 1993 born only). 73555-73177. (CL24

PROPERTY FOR SALE



Booking/ Resale Commercial 12% Monthly commitment. Charges till possession/ Good appreciation after possession. 98787-09884. (CL24000018)

Urgently required 1, 2, 4 kanal house and any size (best price) Chandigarh/ Panchkula/ Mohali/ Mullapur. Bansal Associates: 98149-67149. (CL24017416)

2 kanal corner, huge greenbelt facing park, Sector 7, 8, 18, 21 (Near Lake) Chandigarh. (Direct deal). 98149-67149. (CL24017418)

14 marla liveable house corner/ facing park Sector 34, 37, 16, Chandigarh. (Going cheap). 98149-67149. (CL24017419)

1 kanal house (plot price) Sector 8, 10, 11, 18, 19, 21, 23, 35, 36, Chandigarh. 98149-67149. (CL24017420)

3 kanal house, fully marbled best location Sector 21, Chandigarh (direct deal). 98149-67149. (CL24017421)

Luxurious Farm House for Sale in Punjab 90 km from Chandigarh towards Hoshiarpur. Located in foothills surrounded with Reserved Forest. Call: 9041-9000-111. (CL24017918)

Chandigarh 10 marla with lift triple Sector 15 also 8 marla triple Sector 20. 98151-86915. (CL24018232)

Two Kanal Corner Facing Park Sector 18, Chandigarh. Rarest location. Contact Anuj Associates 98150-38223. (CL24018917)

One Kanal Duplex tastefully built for High taste person Sector 46 Chandigarh. Anuj Associates 98150-38223. (CL24018918)

100 Yard's Single storied newly built Sector 66-B, IT City Mohali. Contact Owner 98150-38223. (CL24018919)

2 kanal house prime location Sector 16 (Near Rose Garden), Chandigarh. Genuine buyers only. 98149-67149. (CL24018935)

Aerotropis: Available residential plots in Block A, C & D. Direct deal with the owners. Call: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018936)

Aerotropis: Available commercial plots 25 sq.yd, Bayside 60 sq.yd, 100/200 sq.yd SCO in Aerotropis. Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-89021. (CL24018937)

EMAAR: Available residential 300, 400 & 500 sq.yd plots in Sector 105, 108 & 109. Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018938)

2/3 BHK flats: Available in Galaxy Heights 66A & EMAAR Views Sector 105: Ready to move. Please Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018939)

Kothi's: Available newly built kothi's 200, 250 sq.yd in Sector 76-80 & Old Mohali. Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018940)

Industrial Plots: Available industrial plots in Sector 82, J.L.P., Phase 8A, 8B and Phase 9. Call: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018941)

Aerocity & IT City 200/300/400 & 500 sqyd prime locations plots for sale. Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018942)

Available possession plots on Airport Road with loan facility starting from 25 Lakh onwards. Contact: 98151-78832, 98140-87021. (CL24018943)

14 marla house facing park best location Sector 34, Chandigarh. Going very cheap. (Required payment urgently). 98149-67149. (CL24019019)

1 kanal and 16 Marla Newly Built-Houses in Posh Locality of Mohali with Lift. Orbit Estates: 9915534500 9877495253. (CL24019278)

For sale 200 sq plot in Eco City-1, direct deal with the owner. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98155-70278. (CL24017259)

New Chandigarh: 100 sqyd plot, park facing, corner, Ecocity 1. Buffers&Catalyst.com: 99901-13480. (CL24017415)

New Chandigarh: DLF, 350 sq. yd plot, park facing. Buffers&Catalyst.com 99901-13480. (CL24017417)

150 sqy double storey kothi. Gated Society Mahatya Narendra Enclave, Improvement Trust Colony, Sihind Road, Patiala. Contact: 98553-34314. (CL24017571)

2 Kanal sector - 8, 15, 18, 21, 1 kanal - 8, 18, 21, 33, 35, 38 Chandigarh. Garg Estates - 98140-06183. (CL24017746)

10 marla Sector-15, 19, 20, 21, 27, 35, 37, 8 Marla-19, 20, 44, 46, Chandigarh. Garg Estates - 98140-06183. (CL24017748)

14 marla facing East Sector 7, Panchkula. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24017870)

1 kanal, main road/ North facing, Sector 8, Panchkula. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24017873)

2 kanal kothi available, prime location Panchkula. Subhash Mangat & Co. 98720-99999. (CL24017875)

A plot 750 sq.yd for sale at prime location, 50 ft front, 150 ft length, 45 ft back, on Chandigarh road near Vardhman Mill Ludhiana. Contact: 98723-00493. (CL24018073)

SCF 355 triple storey with basement main road Motor Market Manimajra Chandigarh. Contact: Surya Properties 94171-60511. (CL24018085)

1 kanal, 633 sqyds, corner, facing park, Defence Sector. Khanna Properties: 98882-86622. (CL24018417)

10 Marla, facing park, Sector 21, 34, 37, Khanna Properties: 98882-86622. (CL24018424)

6 kanal kothi, prime location, Northern Sector 9, Chandigarh rare deal. 98140-16622. (CL24018442)

For sale 3 kanal non converted industrial shed freehold Phase 1 Chandigarh. Contact: 98140-16622. (CL24018445)

For sale 4 kanal kothi, Sector 2, prime location, rare deal Chandigarh. Contact: 98140-16622. (CL24018448)

For sale 1 kanal kothi, prime location Sector 30 (10.50) full cheque Chandigarh. Contact: 98140-16622. (CL24018458)

12% marla 2 1/2 storey B-road house Sector 46 and 43. (Wanted kanal house). Contact: 98140-16234. (CL24019361)

SCO, prime retail market, Sector 24 huge parking, Chandigarh. Contact: 98140-16622. (CL24018452)

120 square yard three showrooms sites near Airport Road next to Hotel Radius TDI, Sector 117, Mohali. 20 square yard booth for sale and 300 square yard residential plot near park for sale in Sector 89, Mohali. M: 98880-12837. (CL24019486)

2 Kanal corner houses in Sector-8, 18, 36, Chandigarh. Contact Delhi Punjab Real Estate- 95011-21600. (CL24018632)

For sale 10 Marla corner house, sector 38 Chandigarh Contact: 99880-46622. (CL24018723)

For sale 8 Marla house, facing park, sector 27, Chandigarh Contact: 99880-46622. (CL24018729)

Zirakpur- Pre Rented Big Size Showroom, on Chandigarh-Anabla Highway, Royalty Group 93763-00005. (CL24018816)

Kothi ten marla newly built facing park Sector 38, 34, 15, 37, all confirm. Megh Estates: 98159-05086. (CL24018989)

Kothi eight marla facing park Sector 38, 40, 44, 27 seven marla Sector 33, 35, 37, five marla Sector 38, 46, 44, 22, 20, 23, 32 Megh Estates. 98159-05086. (CL24018994)

NURSING HOME/ COACHING CENTRE OPPORTUNITY NEAR SHIMLA A First Class Building on 600 Sq. meter Plot is available at Shoghi for Sale or Joint Venture. 98140-06106 rosheprocess@gmail.com (CL24017507)

Kothi one kanal Sector 39, 33, 35, 38, Fourteen marla Sector 36, 37, 34, Megh Estates 98159-05086. (CL24018998)

Sector 38 West HIG Independent, HIG upper, lower MIG, LIG also HIG, MIG Sector 51, 63, 61, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 Megh Estates. 98159-05086, 98762-22255. (CL24019003)

Society flat Cat A first floor Puspak Sector 49, excellent location 4 BHK Megh Estates. 98159-05086, 98762-22255. (CL24019009)

Showroom Sector 35, 37, 19, 38, 40, 44 booth Sector 35, 37, 38, 40 Megh Estates. 98159-05086, 98762-22255. (CL24019017)

Chandigarh booth (42 square yard) site 9x41 opposite Hotel JW Marriott Sector 22-C demand 1.85 Cr. negotiable Mahajan:- 98760-00014. (CL24019032)

Chandigarh 1 k maintained house Sector 18 demand 15 Cr. maximum cheque payment, 1 kanal facing park old house Sector 8. Contact:- Mahajan:- 98760-00014. (CL24019058)

Chandigarh: A-Cat goodwilly society Sector 49, 3rd floor with lift excellent work. Contact DM Associates 84276-06677, 98140-07571. (CL24019087)

HIG, MIG, LIG, 4/5/8 marla all Chandigarh. Harpal 95928-68488. (CL24017452)

New Chandigarh- 500 sqyds sun facing residential plot Omxase Phase-3. Contact DM Associates 99145-92111, 98140-07571. (CL24019075)

Mohali- Well maintained 105 marla house 1.5 storey in Phase 5. Contact DM Associates: 99144-89006, 98140-07571. (CL24019077)

Mohali: Golf view 3+1 bedroom drawing dining attached three washroom Sector 91. Contact DM Associates 95920-47571, 98140-07571. (CL24019079)

100 sqy SCO for sale Eco City 1 New Chandigarh. 99888-91991. (CL24019152)

Available 2 kanal (9000 sqft) exclusively built-up duplex house in IAS Society, New Chandigarh. Contact 79863-6630. (CL24019175)

Freehold show room first floor Sector 23 Chandigarh, huge park ing. Best for Jewellers. Choice Estates 98146-01276. (CL24019196)

Show room low lease, huge parking Sector 24, Chandigarh. Choice Estates, show room 380/ 37-D, 94641-21857. (CL24019201)

Booth Size 10'x45' (Main Hotel's Road) Sector 35. Booth Sector 24, 37. 86990-28887. (CL24019260)

Chandigarh: Fully marbled Duplex First, Second floor 5 room set Sector 47. Independent Duplex 38 West (4 Cr.). 85 marla 43, 5 marla 22, 32, 38, 40, 10 marla 21 triple rent 1.25. 2 Kanal 19 (18.5 Cr.). 86990-28887. (CL24019263)

Mohali: Gilco industrial SCO 20x100 (222.22 square yard) site no. 121 & SCO 20x80 (177.77 square yard) site no. 193 & 194 on Landra Banur national highway. Raman Estates 98889-98877. (CL24019335)

Chandigarh: 1 kanal kothi: Sector 8, 11, 16, 18, 19, 21, 33, 34 Contact: Sood GM (Retd) GOI. 95992-30239. (CL24019341)

Ambala Cantt: 492 gaj corner house for sale. Top location for Doctors and Professionals. 98140-39143, 97790-88123. (CL24019371)

Petrol Pump for sale Banur to Lehi road, SC Category, good investment. 98140-39143. (CL24019372)

MIG Sector 45, Ground Floor in Society 51-A, 8 Marla Sector 44. 98146-27106. (CL24018652)

Fully furnished Cloud Kitchen cum 20 seater Restaurant for sale in Celebration Bazaar, Khanna, Area 525 sq. ft, Grade 304 Equipments and Accessories. 98883-77192. (CL24017227)

Chandigarh kothi's Kanal 11, 10, 21, 34, 35, 36, Ten marla 15, 27, 21, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, Eight marla Sector 20, 27, 38, 40, 44, 46, Five marla 22, 38, 40, 44, 46, Rajesh Estates: 98140-16622. (CL24017692)

Chandigarh freehold MIG facing park 75-B, Sector 51-A, MIG 2184-B and 2271-D renovated Sector 63, MIG renovated 1434-A, Sector 61, Rajesh Estates: 98140-16622. (CL24017691)

Chandigarh kothi's Kanal 11, 10, 21, 34, 35, 36, Ten marla 15, 27, 21, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, Eight marla Sector 20, 27, 38, 40, 44, 46, Five marla 22, 38, 40, 44, 46, Rajesh Estates: 98140-16622. (CL24017692)

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Chandigarh kothi's Kanal 11, 10, 21, 34, 35, 36, Ten marla 15, 27, 21, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, Eight marla Sector 20, 27, 38, 40, 44, 46, Five marla 22, 38, 40, 44, 46, Rajesh Estates: 98140-16622. (CL24017692)

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Chandigarh kothi's Kanal 11, 10, 21, 34, 35, 36, Ten marla 15, 27, 21, 35, 37, 38, 40, 42, Eight marla Sector 20, 27, 38, 40, 44, 46, Five marla 22, 38, 40, 44, 46, Rajesh Estates: 98140-16622. (CL24017692)

Double storey kothi 365 gaj, Silver City Zirakpur for sale. Direct deal Contact 98159-09780. (CL24017193)

Chandigarh corner almost new 2 kanal bungalow with huge greenbelt in Northern Sector. Sampark Estate: 98142-11400. (CL24017412)

Available/ wanted HIG/ MIG 38W, 39B, 43B, 44, 45, 47, 51A, 61, 63, Societies Cat-A/B Sector 48/ 49/ 50/ 51. Rajesh Estates: 98140-12730, 98148-22730. (CL24017693)

Mohali: Showroom (Full/ Floorwise) with basement. (Pre rented/ Vacant) in main market, Phase-7, 3B2, 5 & 10. Empire Estates 98159-50922. (CL24017586)

16 Marla, almost brand new, 5 bedroom, tastefully fully furnished, B-Road, Sector 71, Mohali. 98880-00990. (CL24018794)

Four storey show room No. 1 (15'x60'). Modern Valley (Kharar), Puda approved. Kharar-Morinda road. 98557-02804. (CL24018964)

Mohali: one kanal double storey, facing park, fully furnished maintained house, Sector-71. (Only genuine buyers). Contact: Empire Estates 98159-50922. (CL24017592)

Chandigarh 7/ 8 marla house Sun direction parking suitable for Advocate, Architect, Chartered Accountant. 96465-20520. (CL24019012)

Chandigarh Commercial show room new first floor inner market Sector 7, full also. 96465-20520. (CL24019013)

Mohali: 16 marla brand new, Ultra Modern Duplex house, with all Luxury Amenities, on wide road, Sector- 79. Empire Estates 98159-50922. (CL24017596)

Chandigarh two kanal liveable house for sale Sector 15, 18, 21, 36, genuine deal. 96465-20520. (CL24019018)

Chandigarh Sector 15 available 10 marla liveable house direct. Vast options. JP Property 96465-20520. (CL24019015)

MIG 51-A, marvellous location. Ground floor, corner, facing park, payment all cheque acceptable. Contact: 99883-99999. (CL24018949)

7 Marla Sector-32D, freehold, triple storey liveable. All cheque acceptable. Call: 99883-99999. (CL24018970)

Glenview Villas Kasauli adjoining Glenview Resorts, Near Doshi and Sanawar School, 4000 sq.ft. Villas 4 BHK with swimming pool, fully furnished with all electronics. Possession in August 2024. Contact Next Invest: 85588-82700. (CL24019279)

Two kanal house in Sector 28 going cheap than market price, dealer excuse. Natraj Properties 85658-00002. (CL24019283)

1 Kanal 633 sq. yds. single lane duplex good liveable house with servant quarter Sector 38B, 4BR + baths, D/D, S/Q 2000 s.f.t. easy walkup 3rd top/ fr alley view. Owner Kapur WhatsApp 98111-6548. odkapur9@gmail.com (CL24019078)

MIG 2 rooms, lobby, second floor, facing park, Sector 39-B, Chandigarh. 98140-42287, 97804-18830. (CL24019023)

Sector 51A, Chandigarh, 2 BHK, third floor, single lane, park facing. 98140-42287, 97804-18830. (CL24019027)

Shimla Chhota nr Sectt, Moon Intl Hotel Complex, Flat, 4BR + baths, D/D, S/Q 2000 s.f.t. easy walkup 3rd top/ fr alley view. Owner Kapur WhatsApp 98111-6548. odkapur9@gmail.com (CL24019078)

Plot sale 1177 gaj, 100 front, Kurali-Kharar road, suitable for Hotel & Hospital, under MC Kurali, near Kurali-Baddi bypass. 98723-84254. (CL24019148)

Running hospitals, petrol pumps, schools, hotels & pre rented properties in Mohali, Chandigarh, tricity. 98770-77747. (CL24019198)

New Chandigarh IAS Society 2 kanal newly built ultra modern duplex bungalow. Immediate sale at very reasonable price. Please contact eligible buyer. 85282-00580. (CL24019242)

Chandigarh corner almost new 2 kanal bungalow with huge green belt in Northern Sector. Sampark Estate. 98142-11400. (CL24019243)

Chandigarh 10 marla corner park facing triple storey vast range Sector 15, 21, 27, 28, 35, 37, 78890-82060. (CL24019244)

Chandigarh 8 marla new triple storey Sector 22 @ 4.60 Cr. and 10 marla Sector 42 4.25 Cr. 78890-82060. (CL24019245)

Plots 250, 350 & 500 sqyds IOLD rates including builtup floors 1865 sq.ft. at DLF HUDA park Mullapur New Chandigarh. Please call Bakshi: 93161-33009, 98039-00039, theservicescsociety@gmail.com (CL24019246)

Sector 42, Chandigarh, 10 marla. Full Cheque payment. Going cheap. Please call Bakshi: 93161-33009, 98039-00039, theservicescsociety@gmail.com (CL24019247)

6 bays 4 Star Hotel 32 rooms & 300 guests banquet, restaurant & bar Sector 10 Panchkula for sale. Yours Property Sanjay. 98143-33330. (CL24019248)

Two kanal Lavish Bungalow duplex at IAS Society, New Chandigarh. Please call Bakshi: 93161-33009, 98039-00039, theservicescsociety@gmail.com (CL24019249)

SCO 4 bays 3 Star Hotel 22 rooms, 200 guests banquet & restaurant main road Sector 43-B, Chandigarh. Your Property Sanjay: 98143-33330. (CL24019251)

Available/ wanted one, two, four, six eight kanal kothi's all Sectors Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali. 91154-59102. (CL24019254)

Nine Bigha Marriage Palace, completely builtup Gajju Khera road Rajpura. Talwar: 62843-12178 (CL24019257)

1 kanal rented IT building Phase 8-B, rent 6 lakh P. month. Natraja Properties: 85658-00002. (CL24019282)

One kanal house facing park clear title, registry case Sector-19, Chandigarh, excellent location. 82888-84586. (CL24019301)

6 kanal only deal Sector 9, four kanal Sectors 8, 5, 16, 27, Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL24019304)

1250 sqyd Hotel site 45 rooms opposite Palm Resort Zirakpur on Ambala Highway. Seven storey passed Rare deals. Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL24019306)

Chandigarh 1 kanal B-road with big berm central Sector choice Sectors 11, 19, 21, 33, 35, Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL24019310)

2 kanal corner Sector 8, Choice Sectors 2, 16, 18, 21, 7, 33, 26, Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL24019312)

Show room rent 9,00,000/- monthly Sector 34, 9, Mohali Bank rent, 3,35,000/- inner markets Chandigarh rented/ vacant Sectors 10, 19, 16, 20, 18. Best deals. Sharan: 98728-92299, 98766-60333. (CL24019314)

**FACTORY FOR SALE**

Running pharmaceutical factory tablet, capsule (Non-BetaLactam), area 500 sq.mtr having industrial plot near Nangal Dam in HP. 98726-32702. (CL24018429)

**TOILET**

**CHANDIGARH**

GF Kanal three bedrooms drawing dining servant room Sector 11. Bhagwati Associate 76964-09555. (CL24017934)

Fully furnished one room attached Bath, Kitchen Sector 35 for working female only. Contact 94171-77897 (CL24018818)

Two rooms set first floor bathroom kitchen (LIG) Sector 45D, Chandigarh. 99155-93901. (CL24018929)

Three room set with kitchen, washroom big balcony, For students, boys only. Sector 16 next to market, Chandigarh 98157-34842, 82794-29967. (CL24019073)

Corner house, 10 Marla, 4 BHK second floor, ample parking, Sector 38-C, Chandigarh. 98157-55538. (CL24019165)

3 BHK furnished ground floor for rent Sector 48 Chandigarh. 98727-23557. (CL24019303)

Sector 15 newly built three bedroom, drawing dining attached baths, car parking, Amit Properties 94175-79499. (CL24019376)

Sector 8, independent canal five bedrooms, duplex bungalow/ servant quarters for Companies/ Businessmen. Vasudeva's 98786-04813. (CL24017450)

Sector 8, 11, 15, luxurious furnishings, two-three bedrooms ground/ first floors for Companies/ Expts. Vasudeva's 98786-04813. (CL24017451)

One kanal corner fully furnished 3 BHK first floor, Sector 33-B, Rent 45000/-, Eskay Properties. 98154-80297. (CL24018700)

Flat 4 bedrooms drawing, dining lobby backside park Advocate Society, Sector 49, Chandigarh. Any sound party. 91154-59102. (CL24019252)

Ultramodern ten marla semi furnished with AC's, Fans, Chimney, HOBH other ground floor. Call 91154-59102. (CL24019255)

**PANCHKULA**

Beautiful renovated 2 kanal house in Panchkula for rent. 6 bedrooms, car park, gardens, next to Green Park. Call 98156-87888. (CL24018324)

14 marla house 3 BHK attach washroom drawing dining kitchen one room at first floor, Sector-21, Panchkula. 98722-01389. (CL24019355)

1st floor 3 BHK, 2 bath, drawing, dining, dressing, storeroom, car parking. 97804-67565. (CL24017713)

**MOHALI**

4 BHK drawing dining flat on rent at Dolphin Towers Sector 78, Mohali. 77105-95853. (CL24017954)

Phase 3-A, Luxurious furnished, canal five bedrooms, duplex bungalow/servant quarters for Companies/Businessmen. Vasudeva's 98786-04813. (CL24017453)

3 BHK, 2 kanal category, first floor, corner house at IAS & PCS Society, Mullapur. 79733-44850. (CL24018978)

Apartment 3 bedrooms attached bathrooms, servant quarter, 6th floor, Eden Court, Sector-91: Only employed family. 98765-79812. (CL24019097)

Furnished two bedrooms/drawing room, bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, first floor, kanal house, 3B2. Contact: 98780-66366. (CL24019111)

**SHIMLA**

2 BHK, 2 toilets, courtyard, terrace, Upper Chakkar, Shimla. Suitable for Company/ Bank Executives lease. 94180-21317. (CL24019162)

**MISC**

2 BHK corner 11 marla independent house, 411P, Sector 10, Gurugram. 94175-47420, 94647-54520. (CL24019136)

**SPACE AVAILABLE**

1200 sqft. 1st floor of multispecialty hospital in Hoshiarpur city for doctor or office space. Separate parking and entry. Water and electricity backup 24x7. Call 98159-79274 (CL24017380)

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**FOR SALE**

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

I, Barinder Singh S/o Jaswant Singh, V. Majri, Kharar, Mohali, Punjab, declares that I have changed my name from Barinder Singh to Gurinder Singh. (CL24019177)

I, Manpreet Kaur Dhillon wife of Kuldeep Singh, resident of #124, Street No. 5, Dhanwan Colony, Ferozpur City, have changed my name to Manpreet Kaur. (CL24019351)

# Teen's grandfather arrested for 'pressuring' driver to take blame

## Confined him to family's bungalow, confiscated his mobile: Cops

**PUNE PORSCHE CRASH**

PUNE, MAY 25

The Pune police on Saturday arrested the grandfather of the 17-year-old involved in a car crash here that killed two persons while claiming that both the teenager's father and grandfather put pressure on the family's driver to take the blame for the accident by offering him money and giving threats.

The teenager's grandfather was arrested for the driver's "illegal confinement" and a court subsequently remanded him in police custody till May 28. The minor's father, in judicial custody in another case registered in connection with the May 19 accident, too was named in the FIR.

"After the accident, the driver gave a statement at the Yerawada police station that he was behind the wheel... But it was revealed that a teen was driving the car," Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar told reporters. After the driver left the Yerawada police station, the teenager's father and his grandfather whisked him in a car to his house on the premises of their bungalow, confiscated his phone and confined him there, the senior police official said.

"He was pressured to give a statement to the police as per their directions," Kumar said, adding that the driver was



The Porsche car that was allegedly driven the teenager. FILE

offered gifts and cash for owning up to the crash of the Porsche driven by the teenager, and also threatened. The driver's wife reached the place the next day and freed him, said the commissioner.

"The driver was frightened. He was summoned and his statement was recorded on Thursday (May 23). After corroboration of facts, an offence was registered against the juvenile's father and grandfather (on the driver's complaint)," Kumar said. The duo were booked under Indian Penal Code sections 365 (kidnapping) and 368 (wrongfully concealing or keeping in confinement).

The court was also informed about past offences registered against the grandfather at police stations in Kondhwa (Bundgarden) in Pune and another at Maha-

baleswar in Maharashtra. Opposing police custody, defence lawyer Prashant Patil argued that the driver was in the car at the time of the accident, and denied the allegation that he was wrongfully confined in the house.

"As there was an outcry over the incident, the driver chose to go to the servant quarters at the bungalow of the accused on his own and stayed there till next day. There is no question of the driver getting threatened," Patil claimed, adding that the accused grandfather was with the police since he landed in Pune on the morning of May 19. On Friday, an inspector and another official attached to the Yerwada police station were suspended for delayed reporting of the offence and dereliction of duty.

The teenager was earlier granted bail by the Juvenile Justice Board, which also asked him to write an essay on road accidents, but following outrage over the lenient treatment and a review application by the police, he was sent to an observation home till June 5. Parents of Anish Awadhya and Ashwini Koshta, the 24-year-old techies from Madhya Pradesh who were killed in the accident, have demanded a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the case. —PTI

# Three Naxalites killed in C'garh encounters

RAIPUR/BIJAPUR, MAY 25

Three Naxalites were killed in encounters with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar region on Saturday, police said.

In Bijapur, a gunfight took place in a forest near Japemmarka-Kamkanar villages, where security forces were out on an anti-Naxalite operation, an official said.

After guns fell silent, the DRG team recovered the bodies of two Naxalites along with weapons.

In another encounter, a Naxalite was killed by the security forces in a hill near Belpochcha village in Sukma district, Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan.

With this, 116 Naxalites have been killed so far this year in separate encounters in the state. —PTI

# 'You take care of your country', Kejriwal snubs ex-Pak minister

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal today chastised former Pakistan minister Chaudhry Farwad Hussain after he called for the defeat of "forces of hate and extremism" in the Lok Sabha election, saying the polls were India's internal matter and it will not tolerate interference by the "biggest sponsors of terrorism".

In the sixth of the seven-phase elections, 58 parliamentary constituencies, including seven in Delhi, went to polls on Saturday.

After casting his vote, Kejriwal, who is the AAP's national convener, shared a picture on X of his family showing fingers marked in ink, and said he voted against "dictatorship, inflation and unemployment".

Sharing Kejriwal's post on X with the hashtags "More-



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal

Power" and "India Election 2024", Hussain said, "May peace and harmony defeat forces of hate and extremism." Minutes after Hussain's post, Kejriwal hit back at him, saying his post was unnecessary.

"Chaudhry Sahib, the people of my country and I are fully capable of handling our issues. Your comment is not

needed. The situation in Pakistan is very bad right now. You take care of your country," Kejriwal said on X. In another post, he said the elections were India's internal matter and the country would "not tolerate interference by the biggest sponsors of terrorism".

Responding to Kejriwal's posts, Hussain said, "CM sb! Indeed electioneering is your own issue but hope you will appreciate extremism be it in Pakistan or India is a borderless phenomenon and dangerous for everyone be it BD (Bangladesh), India or Pak so everyone with some conscience must be concerned... (sic)."

Hitting out at Kejriwal, the BJP said Pakistan has also jumped in support of the AAP leader's politics of corruption. —PTI

# SC stays U'khand HC order asking state for its relocation out of Nainital

TIRUNELVELI NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed an Uttarakhand High Court order asking the state government to find "the best suitable land" outside Nainital for constructing a new building for the high court and creating other requisite infrastructure.

Acting on a petition filed by Uttarakhand High Court Bar Association, a Vacation Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Sanjay Karol stayed the operation of the high court's May 8 order; issued notice to the state government and posted the matter for further hearing after the summer vacation.

The Bench passed the stay order after hearing submissions from lawyers representing the petitioner and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. The establishment of new benches of a high court was in

# Out of poverty, newborn sold for ₹5K in Tripura

AGARTALA, MAY 25

A tribal woman from Tripura's Dhalai district, grappling with dire poverty following her husband's death five months ago, sold her newborn for Rs 5,000, an official said on Saturday.

The four-day-old girl was rescued from a couple in Hezamara, West Tripura district, and reunited with her mother, following Opposition leader Jitendra Choudhury's intervention, sources said.

# Baby reunited with tribal mother after Oppn intervenes

Mormati Tripura (39) of Gandacherra subdivision, gave birth to a daughter at home on Wednesday. The next day she sold the child to a couple in Hezamara for Rs 5,000, citing extreme poverty after her husband's demise five months ago, SDM Arindam Das said.

"She is already burdened with two sons and a daughter... This desperation likely led to the decision to sell the child," Das added. —PTI

**RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA**

On-line Tenders are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. and Due Date	Description	Quantity (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	12241220/24.06.2024	AL. Extrusion Length =1.8M	48025.00 Kgs.	306020/-
2.	17241097/18.06.2024	Water Tank Flap With Fixing Arrangement for LHB Coaches	2419 Nos	2,93,320/-
3.	132450308/18.06.2024	Electronic Rail Weight Bridge Cap 70 MT as per specification no. Mech/M&P/3800 GM/18 Rev. NIL [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] PL No Item Code: 656100230015	01 Nos	88140/-
4.	14241085/14.06.2024	Resin Bonded Fibre Glasswool	1854 Set	10,81,520/-
5.	02241145A/10.06.2024	1. kit for preventive maintenance C-Check shall also quote item wise rates items.	2055 Set	5000000/-
2.	Unscheduled Maintenance items		1 Set	
3.	kit for preventive maintenance B-Check items		3510 Set	
4.	D-Check List items for cummins engine KTA 19G-10		600 Set	
6.	12241183/25.06.2024	Honeycomb Partition Frame Set with AL FR HPL Sheet For LHB SCN Coach	75 Set	3,34,500/-
7.	17241264/20.06.2024	Set of Seating Arrangement for LHB Double Decker AC Chair Car (120 Seaters)	04 Sets	2,20,860/-
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9.	01241179/28.06.2024	Traction Lever	8840 Nos	263430/-
10.	14241094/17.06.2024	Fire Extinguisher with Anti-Theft Arrangement in Non AC Coaches	3845 Nos	1,02,080/-
11.	14241057/17.06.2024	Paint Synthetic Enamel	14871LTR	80720/-
12.	17241131/12.06.2024	Cable Tray, L=3M	2600 Nos	77,500/-
13.	17241270/14.06.2024	Fixing Strip For Decoupling Elements for Flooring	104730 Nos	249630/-
14.	01241175/19.06.2024	Air Spring Control Equipment for Bogie	1248 Set	2000000/-
15.	05241380/17.06.2024	Set of Roof Elements	181 Sets	158050/-
16.	05241366/26.06.2024	Sliding Door Arrgt.	42 Nos	72140/-
17.	05241369/12.06.2024	Set of Channel	335 Sets	156540/-
18.	02241226/12.07.2024	Double Inlet Centrifugal Blower	527 Nos	55030/-
19.	02241311/28.06.2024	Four Types of Thin Walled Flex Elast Cable in 25 Sqmm	49900 MTR	359770/-
20.	02241321/15.07.2024	PA System for Power Car Coach	158 Set	131850/-
21.	02241323/04.07.2024	Led Light Fittings J2, Q2, Q1 and F4	1458 Nos	66310/-
22.	02241324/27.06.2024	Led Light Fittings for Night Light with Type-E	523 Set	59080/-
23.	02241329/03.07.2024	Tail Light Led Type Flasher Unit	239 Nos	76150/-
24.	02241343/12.06.2024	Multi-Core Cable 3X1.0 SQMM	60000 MTR	233640/-
25.	05241350/17.06.2024	Bracket Assembly For LHB AC Coaches	127423 Sets	198470/-
26.	052			

# ICJ judge Bhandari votes in favour of Israel forces ending Rafah assault

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 25 The judge from India at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Justice Dalveer Bhandari, voted in favour of new provisional measures that order Israel to immediately end military operations in Rafah in southern Gaza and open the governorate's border crossing for urgent aid deliveries.

The court issued the decision by 13 votes in favour and two against.

Besides Justice Bhandari, Judge Sarah Cleveland, an American, also voted to end Israel's military operation in Rafah.

The only two judges who voted against the ruling were Judge Julia Sebutinde from Uganda and Judge Aharon Barak (former Israeli High Court president).

The ICJ's new provisional measures came in response to South Africa's request made on May 10 that Israel is violating its obligations under the Genocide Con-



A total of 35,903 Palestinians have been killed since October last year. FILE

### STAND ON RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Justice Dalveer Bhandari had also joined the majority of judges in a call to Russia to immediately halt its military operations in Ukraine. In the 13-2 judgment in 2022, Justice Bhandari went with the majority, while the Russian and Chinese judges voted against the order.

vention during the war in Gaza. Israel's military response has, to date, killed nearly 36,000 Palestinians and caused widespread destruction and a looming famine in the besieged and bombarded Gaza, according to the United Nations.

On Friday, International Court of Justice Chief Jus-

tice Nawaf Salam had recalled that in the two previous orders for provisional measures the court expressed its grave concern over the fate of the hostages abducted during the attack in Israel on October 7, 2023. He called for their immediate and unconditional release stating that "the

court finds it deeply troubling that many of these hostages remain in captivity and reiterates its call for their immediate and unconditional release".

The International Court of Justice cannot enforce its order but the ruling symbolises Israel's isolation over its assault on Gaza.

### 30 KILLED AS TEL AVIV STEPS UP STRIKES

Israeli forces killed more than 30 people in new attacks in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian medics said on Saturday, the day after judges at the top United Nations court ordered Israel to halt its offensive on the southern Gazan city of Rafah

Though Israel pressed on with its offensive against the Palestinian militant group Hamas, mediated negotiations between the two sides are due to restart next week, an official with knowledge of the matter said

## US Defence Secy to visit China's close ally Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, MAY 25

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin is scheduled to make an official visit to Cambodia, one of China's closest allies in Southeast Asia, after holding talks with his Chinese counterpart at an annual security conference in Singapore, officials said.

A US Defence Department statement issued in Washington on Friday said Austin would travel next week to Singapore, Cambodia and France. He will visit Cambodia on June 4 after attending the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore.

Among the talks he is planning there is one with his Chinese counterpart Adm Dong Jun, the Defence Department said. The encounter would be part of an effort to patch up ties that have deteriorated over Beijing's aggressive policies toward Taiwan and its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea.

US relations with Cambodia have been frosty for years, in large part because of Phnom Penh's close ties with China. — AP

## Pakistan PM to unveil CPEC Ph-II in China

ISLAMABAD, MAY 25

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will visit China in the first week of next month to join the formal launching of the second phase of the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, according to a media report on Saturday.

A source in the Prime Minister's Office told the Dawn newspaper that Sharif was scheduled to leave for China on June 4, but the date of the visit could slightly be changed.

The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is opposed by India as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Infrastructure and energy projects were part of the CPEC's first phase. In CPEC-II, both countries will focus on agriculture, Main Line-I of Pakistan Railways, businessmen-to-businessmen deals and realignment of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) etc. While presiding over a meeting of representatives of Chinese companies on Friday, the Prime Minister said



Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif

Pakistan wanted to benefit from Chinese experiences to promote its IT sector and boost exports.

"China has an important role in Pakistan's development. It has always helped Pakistan in difficult times for which the entire nation, including me, is grateful to the Chinese leadership and people," he said.

He assured the Chinese firms that the security and protection of Chinese workers and citizens was the priority of the government. Thousands of Chinese personnel are working in Pakistan on several projects being carried out under the aegis of the CPEC. Some have been attacked in recent years by militants who accuse them of exploiting mineral resources. — PTI

## Pakgovt nod to registration of more cases against Imran

LAHORE, MAY 25

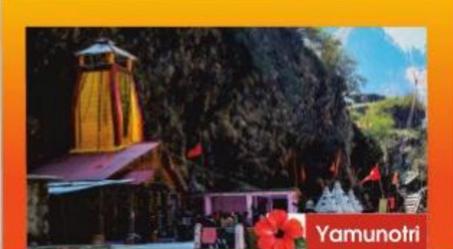
Pakistan's Punjab government has approved the registration of more cases against jailed former prime minister Imran Khan and his party men for inciting hate against the state institutions, especially the powerful Pakistan Army.

The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician has been in jail since August last year after being convicted in some of the nearly 200 cases slapped on him since his ouster in April 2022.

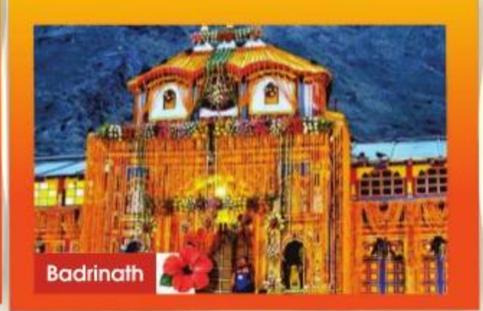
"The Punjab Cabinet of Maryam Nawaz has approved legal action against Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) founder leader Imran Khan and his other party leaders for building a hate narrative against the state institutions," Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari told a press conference after a cabinet meeting on Friday evening.

The minister said Khan is trying to become Mujeeb-ur-Rehman (of Bangladesh). Mujeeb-ur-Rehman had successfully led the Bangladeshi independence movement against Pakistan. — PTI









### Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

## A heartiest welcome and greetings to all the visiting devotees of Chardham Yatra

Appeal

- Pilgrims coming to Char Dham are requested to do mandatory registration online.
- Permission for Chardham Yatra will not be given without registration.
- After registration, visit to the Dham will be allowed only on the day mentioned in registration
- Offline registration of Char Dham Yatra has been closed till May 31, 2024. Only online registration is being done.
- Do not use single use plastic during yatra.

Means of registration

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Contact for more information:

Phone No. 0135-1364, 0135-2559898, 0135-2552627 | E-mail : [touristcare.uttarakhand@gmail.com](mailto:touristcare.uttarakhand@gmail.com)







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Two inflatable boats carrying migrants make their way towards England in the English Channel. FILE

## 10K asylum seekers entered UK on small boats since Jan: Govt

LONDON, MAY 25

Over 10,000 asylum seekers have arrived in Britain in small boats so far this year, updated government data showed on Saturday, underlining a key challenge facing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak ahead of a July 4 national election.

The number of people landing on England's southern beaches after making the dangerous Channel crossing fell by a third in 2023, but the latest numbers on a government website showed 10,170 arrived between January and May 25, up from 7,395 over the

same period last year.

Sunak, who announced the election date on Wednesday, said later this week that asylum seekers who come to Britain illegally would not be deported to Rwanda before the vote casting doubt on one of his Conservative Party's flagship policies.

The plan has been bogged down by legal obstacles for more than two years, and the opposition Labour Party, which is about 20 points ahead in opinion polls and seen on track to end 14 years of Conservative rule, has promised to scrap the policy if it wins the election. — Reuters



Britain's King Charles stands next to Arti at Buckingham Palace in London. REUTERS

## King Charles fetes UP's pink e-rickshaw driver

LONDON, MAY 25

An 18-year-old rickshaw driver from a village in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh is overjoyed on meeting King Charles III at Buckingham Palace after she collected a prestigious women's empowerment award in London this week.

Arti received the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award, named after the world-renowned human

rights barrister, at the Prince's Trust Awards in London followed by a meeting with the 75-year-old monarch on Wednesday.

She was honoured for inspiring other young girls through her work with the government's Pink e-rickshaw initiative, which provides safe transport for other women with a mission to drive change, quite literally. — PTI

# And then there were two

Kolkata Knight Riders aim for third title but serial winner Cummins out to ambush them

CHENNAI, MAY 25

Gautam Gambhir couldn't have envisaged a battle of wits with a more different kind of adversary than the smiling yet ruthless Pat Cummins as Kolkata Knight Riders face a spirited Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL final here on Sunday.

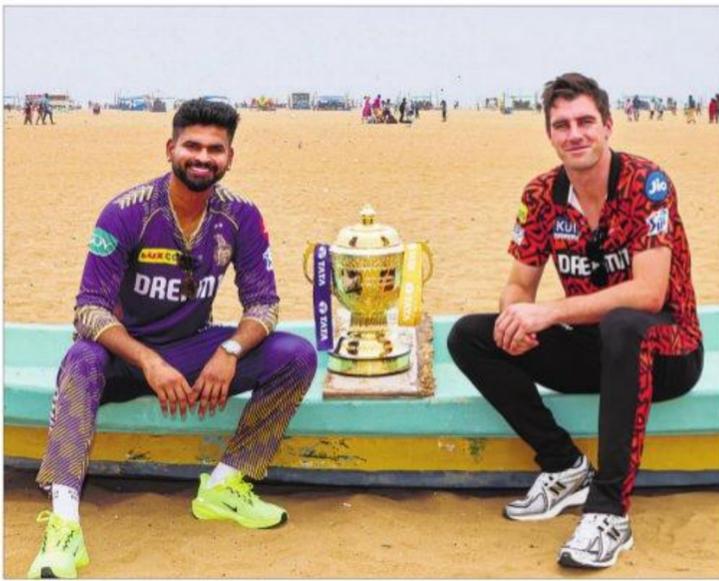
A decade ago, no one would have placed a bet on Cummins being a captain and winning the ODI World Cup, World Test Championship and Ashes in a space of six months, and now, leading SRH to their maiden IPL title would be the icing on the cake.

"A very practical guy, very humble, very empathetic to his fellow teammates and coaching staff. He is into statistics and gets the information he needs against a particular opposition in certain conditions," SRH's assistant coach Simon Helms described the skipper in a nutshell after the team's win against Rajasthan Royals in the second Qualifier.

"He doesn't waste time in (team) meetings. Our team meeting today was 35 seconds. But, a lot of information has already been spoken about," he said.

The two teams met in the Qualifier 1 in which KKR outwitted SRH with clever bowling plans on a massive Motera ground and in Chennai, Shreyas Iyer's men will again start as favourites.

The last time KKR played an IPL final in Chennai, it was against Chennai Super



KKR's captain Shreyas Iyer and SRH's skipper Pat Cummins pose with the trophy on eve of the match. PTI

### PITCH AND CONDITIONS

The pitch for the final is a red-soil strip and could be more batting friendly, unlike the black-soil surface on which RR were spun out by SRH in Qualifier 2. As for the weather, there is no official forecast of rain tomorrow but it is expected to remain cloudy with low humidity.

47

KKR's bowlers are in red-hot form. They have taken 47 wickets in their last five completed matches — the most by any team in a 5-match stretch in the history of the IPL

Kings in 2012 in one of the most epic contests, which established Gambhir's credentials as an astute leader of men. A trophy will only burnish his credentials to succeed Rahul Dravid as India's coach.

If one looks at man-to-man comparison, KKR tick more boxes in terms of overall

match-winners with Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh, and the two Iyers — Shreyas and Venkatesh — the two Ranas — Nitish and Harshit — and spinner Varun Chakravarthy in their ranks.

However, SRH's uncapped domestic stars like Abhishek Sharma, Nitish Kumar Reddy have done really well

along with out-of-favour India internationals such as Bhuvneshwar Kumar, T Natarajan and Jaydev Unadkat. "We have quite an experienced bowling line-up, including (Jaydev) Unadkat and Bhuv (Bhuvneshwar Kumar). Also, so many youngsters have come through and have won us

"I think data and analytics is there as a tool to use, but it's just, you know, it's one factor in a decision-making process. So, you know, data only takes you so far. So, I think there's still a strong place for kind of gut feel and intuition." Pat Cummins on his captaincy

I feel he has got immense knowledge about how the game is played. He has won two titles previously with KKR, and his strategies have been spot-on in terms of what execution we have to make against the opposition. Shreyas Iyer on Gautam Gambhir



Aditi Swami captures the moment with Parneet Kaur and Jyothi Surekha Vennam after winning the compound gold. AAI

## Archery on the cake

### ARCHERY WORLD CUP

YECHON (S KOREA), MAY 25

The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Swami grabbed its third successive Archery World Cup gold medal, while the mixed team added a silver at the Stage II event here today.

The world No. 1 Indians dominated Turkey's Hazal Burun, Ayse Bera Suzer and Begum Yuva right from the first end and sealed the gold without dropping a set, maintaining a six-point margin in a 232-226 win in the final.

With the win, Jyothi, Parneet and world champion Aditi completed a hat-trick of World Cup gold medals together. They had won the season-opening World Cup Stage I in Shanghai, downing Italy last month and also ended last year with a gold at the Stage IV of the event in Paris.

Asian Games champion Jyothi, however, failed to add a second gold to her kitty as

Women's compound team strikes gold, mixed team bags silver

she along with Priyansh squandered an opening-round lead to go down to the USA's Olivia Dean and Sawyer Sullivan by two points (155-153) in the compound mixed team final.

The Indian archers failed to deliver a third medal in the compound category as youngster Prathamesh Fuge lost to world No. 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands in a shoot-off of the bronze medal playoff.

The 21-year-old Fuge, who upset world No. 6 and former world champion Nico Wiener of Austria in the quarterfinals, overcame a two-point deficit to make it 148-147 and force a shoot-off.

The former world champion sealed it with a 10 in the tiebreaker to deny the Indian a maiden World Cup individual medal. — PTI

### BRIEFLY

**NEW DELHI**  
**Bedabrat Bharali wins gold in world youth weightlifting**  
Assamese weightlifter Bedabrat Bharali won the gold medal in the men's 73kg category at the IWF World Youth Championships in Lima, Peru. The 17-year-old Bharali finished 12kg clear of his competitors with a total lift of 296kg (136 in snatch and 160 in clean and jerk). Sairaj clinched bronze in the snatch discipline of the men's 81kg with a lift of 135kg.

**NEW DELHI**  
**Senthilkumar, Abhay bow out in quarters of QSF 3 squash**  
National champion Velavan Senthilkumar fought hard against top seed and world No. 8 Tarek Momen of Egypt before losing in the quarterfinals of the prestigious \$53,500 QSF 3 squash, a PSA World Tour Bronze event, in Doha. Momen beat Senthilkumar 11-9 8-11 11-4 11-8, while Malaysian Eain Yow Ng beat Abhay 11-6 11-9 11-4.

**LONDON**  
**FA Cup: United stun bitter rivals City 2-1 in the final**  
Manchester United upset the odds to beat Manchester City 2-1 in the FA Cup final, with goals by teenagers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo settling the Wembley showpiece today. "It's been a tough season with ups and downs. This is the only thing we've had to look forward to," Mainoo said.

**NEW DELHI**  
**Race walker Akshdeep finishes creditable third**  
National record holder Akshdeep Singh finished a creditable third in the 20km race walk event while three other Indians also ended up in the top-10 at the Zahoracka Dvadsiatka, a World Athletics Race Walking Tour silver level meet, at Borsky Mikulas in Slovakia. He clocked 1 hour, 20 minutes and 52 seconds to finish third. AGENCIES

**TODAY ON TV**  
IPL FINAL  
KOLKATA VS HYDERABAD  
STAR SPORTS 7:30PM  
HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE  
WOMEN: INDIA VS ARGENTINA 3:15PM  
MEN: INDIA VS ARGENTINA 10PM  
STAR SPORTS  
LA LIGA  
SEVILLA VS BARCELONA  
SPORTS18 12:30AM (MON)  
FRENCH OPEN  
SONY SPORTS 2:30PM

## Sindhu on cusp of Malaysia Masters glory

KUALALUMPUR, MAY 25

Ace shuttler PV Sindhu today earned a shot at the \$420,000 Malaysia Masters crown after entering the women's singles final with a come-from-behind win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrunphan here.

Fifth seed Sindhu, who has not won a title in two years, rallied to prevail 13-21 21-16 21-12 against world No. 20 Busanan in a marathon semi-final that lasted 88 minutes to close in on the Super 500 title.

"I've played with her a couple of times now and of course she's in the top 10 and it's not going to be easy. It's the, so I just have to give my 100%. I think the result is secondary, but the most important thing is how I play against her." PV Sindhu on her final vs Wang Zhi Yi



It was her 18th win over Busanan, who has beaten the

Indian only once in her career, way back in the Hong

Kong Open in 2019.

World No. 15 Sindhu, who will be eyeing her third Olympics medal at the Paris Games in two months' time, will face second seed and world No. 7 Wang Zhi Yi of China in the summit clash.

Sindhu had lost to Wang at the Arctic Open last year but has defeated the Chinese twice in three meetings. "I'm sure she must have seen my match. It's going to be a different game, but I hope I do well," she said. — PTI

## Final flourish from Simran as India end with best-ever medal haul

KOBE (JAPAN), MAY 25

India ended their World Para Athletics Championships campaign with unprecedented success, scooping 17 medals, including six gold, to take the sixth spot in the standings with Delhi sprinter Simran Sharma winning the country's sixth gold here today.

Simran won the women's 200 metres T12 event with a

### PARA ATHLETICS

#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

personal best time of 24.95 seconds on the final day of competitions. She shaved off around one-fifth of a second from her earlier personal best of 25.16s to win the gold.

Darlenys De La Severino (25.08s) of Dominica and Lorraine Gomes De Aguiar of Brazil (25.40s) won silver and

bronze, respectively. The T12 category is meant for athletes who have vision impairment.

India finished with six gold, five silver and six bronze. This is the country's best-ever performance, having surpassed the earlier record medal haul of 10 medals (three gold, four silver and three bronze) won in the 2023 edition in Paris. — PTI

## Belgium do a double over India in Pro League

ANTWERP, MAY 25

The Indian men's hockey team produced a vastly improved performance than its previous match but still lost to reigning Olympics champions Belgium in the shootout after the two sides were locked 2-2 in the regulation time in the FIH Pro League here today.

India, ranked sixth in the world, lost 1-3 in the shootout to take one point. World No. 3 Belgium secured two points, including the bonus point for winning the shootout.



India's Sumit in action against Belgium. HOCKEY INDIA

Arajjeet Singh Hundal put India in the lead in the 11th

minute with a fine field goal before Felix Denayer (30th)

restored parity just a few seconds before halftime off a penalty corner.

Florent Van Aubel (50th) put Belgium ahead from a PC but Sukhjeet Singh (57th) equalised three minutes before the end of regulation time.

In the shootout, only Sukhjeet Singh scored for India while Vivek Sagar Prasad, Abhishek and Arajjeet Singh Hundal missed.

Meanwhile, The women's team lost 1-2 to Belgium for its back-to-back defeat to the home side. — PTI

## Faring well? Improving Rafa keeps door open



<< Rafael Nadal during a practice session. REUTERS

PARIS, MAY 25

Rafael Nadal smiled. He joked. He sounded upbeat. He's been playing well and feeling better in practice. He is eager to get going at Roland Garros after dealing for so long with hip and abdominal problems. Oh, and then there's this little tid-bit he dropped during a pre-tournament news conference today: This French Open might not turn out to be the 14-time champion's last appearance at his favourite event, after all.

Because of his age — he turns 38 on June 3 — and his injuries and his past statements about figuring 2024 would be his last year on tour, everyone from other players to fans to the media

has been assuming it will be his farewell appearance at the French Open.

Asked whether that was accurate, Nadal smiled and replied: "Don't assume that." "It's a big, big chance that it's going to be my last Roland Garros," Nadal said. "But, if I have to tell you there's this little tid-bit it's 100% my last Roland Garros? Sorry, but I won't. Because I can't predict what's going on."

He is just 7-4 in 2024, and there had been some doubt after a lopsided loss at the Italian Open two weeks ago whether he would even enter the Roland Garros at all. But, he did show up and has been training in front of loud crowds this week. He faces No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev in Round 1. — AP

## ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTS FOR VOTING

- 1 UNIQUE DISABILITY CARD
- 2 INDIAN PASSPORT
- 3 DRIVING LICENSE
- 4 SERVICE IDENTITY CARD
- 5 PAN CARD
- 6 BANK/POST OFFICE PASSBOOK WITH PHOTO
- 7 SMART CARD ISSUED BY RGI UNDER NPR
- 8 AADHAAR CARD
- 9 MNREGA JOB CARD
- 10 HEALTH INSURANCE SMART CARD
- 11 PENSION DOCUMENT WITH PHOTO
- 12 OFFICIAL ID CARDS ISSUED TO MPs/MLAs/MLCs

**Chandigarh Electors! Please note that you can use these documents only if your name is in the Electoral Roll.**

112

97

In total, Nadal has played 115 matches at Roland Garros, winning 112 and losing just three

A win percentage of 97 per cent is the highest of any player at a Grand Slam, unmatched in tennis history

Cast your vote on 1st June! From 7 am to 6 pm

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# 65.9% in 5 phases: EC's absolute data out, says no one can alter it

ANIMESH SINGH  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Facing flak from civil society groups over the delay in releasing absolute data on voter turnout, the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday, more than a month after the General Election began, released the complete numbers for the first five phases.

The turnout after the culmination of the five phases stood at 65.9 per cent, which was slightly lower than 67.3 per cent recorded for the five rounds of polling in 2019, said the EC. The individual turnout for the five phases stands at 66.14 per cent, 66.71 per cent, 65.68 per cent, 69.16 per cent and 62.2 per cent, respectively. In 2019, it was 69.4 per cent, 69.6 per cent, 65.9 per cent, 69.5 per cent and 62.4 per cent.

Srinagar recorded the lowest

## POLL PANEL HAS RAISED MORE DOUBTS: ADR

ADR founder-member Jagdeep Chhokarsaid, "By releasing the data more than a month after the General Election began and without any satisfactory explanation, the EC raises doubts about why this data could not be, and was not, released progressively and phase-wise."

turnout at 38.4 per cent, which incidentally was the constituency's highest since 1996. The highest turnout in the five phases was 92 per cent in Assam's Dhubri. Andhra Pradesh's Ongole and Chittoor seats recorded a high turnout of 87.06 per cent and 85.7 per cent. Outer Manipur constituency saw 85.1 per cent polling despite the state being in the grip of ethnic violence.

Among the seats with low turnout were Nawada (43 per cent), Hyderabad (48.4 per cent), Almora (48.7 per cent), Secunderabad (49.04 per cent), Rewa (49.4 per cent), Mathura (49.4 per cent), Ghaziabad (49.8

per cent) and Karauli-Dholpur (49.5 per cent).

The data, being sought since the culmination of the first round of polling on April 19, came a day after the Supreme Court rejected a plea by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) that sought directions to the EC to upload authenticated, scanned and legible copies of Form 17C, showing the account of votes recorded booth-wise after each phase. The SC had yesterday said the sixth phase was to be witnessed within a day (on Saturday), and that the "mammoth poll required huge human resources and it

didn't want to divert the poll panel's attention in the middle of the elections".

In its defence, the EC, while releasing the absolute data, reiterated that nobody could change the data of the votes polled, which was shared on the voting day with the polling agents of all candidates through Form 17C. It said the turnout data was always available with the candidates and 24x7 on Voter Turnout APP.

The EC said it had noted the pattern of false narratives and mischievous design to vitiate the electoral process. The ADR's plea had been filed in the apex court amid protests by opposition parties led by the Congress, which sought the immediate release of the turnout data, for which they had even met top EC officials earlier this month.



Fire tenders try to douse a massive blaze that broke out at a packed gaming zone in Gujarat's Rajkot on Saturday. REUTERS

## Kids among 27 die in Rajkot gaming zone fire

RAJKOT, MAY 25

At least 27 persons, including children, were killed and several others injured in a massive fire on Saturday evening that raged in a game zone teeming with people enjoying a summer vacation outing in Gujarat's Rajkot city.

Rescue operations are underway at the affected TRP game zone for more than four

### PM MODI EXPRESSES GRIEF

Extremely distressed by the fire mishap in Rajkot. The local administration is working to provide all possible assistance to those affected. Narendra Modi, PM

hours after the blaze erupted at a fibre dome constructed for gaming activities around 4.30 pm, officials said.

According to officials, the structure collapsed due to

the huge fire. Several people, including children, were playing games when the blaze erupted.

"The fire control room received a call around 4.30 pm

regarding the blaze. Fire tenders and ambulances rushed to the spot to douse the flames. The fire caused the collapse of the structure, and debris is being cleared," said Rajkot Collector Prabhav Joshi.

After the fire broke out, Rajkot Police Commissioner Raju Bhargav told mediapersons that the cause of the blaze would be investigated. — PTI

## NASA will train Indians for joint ISS mission: US envoy

WASHINGTON, MAY 25

NASA will provide advanced training to Indian astronauts to send a joint mission to the International Space Station this year or shortly thereafter, US envoy to India Eric Garcetti said.

Garcetti made these remarks while speaking at the "US-India Commercial Space Conference: Unlocking Opportunities for US & Indian Space Startups",

hosted by the US-India Business Council and the US Commercial Service in Bengaluru on Friday. "NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts, with the goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station, hopefully, this year or shortly thereafter, which was one of the promises of our leaders' visit together," Garcetti said. — PTI

## 50°C in Rajasthan



A man rides a motorcycle with a canopy in Ahmedabad. REUTERS

- Heat wave intensified in Rajasthan where the mercury touched 50°C on Saturday, weather office said
- Maximum temperature recorded in Phalodi during the day was 50°C, followed by 48.8°C in Barmer. PTI

## Bangladesh in touch with India, US, Nepal to nail suspect in MP's murder

KOLKATA/DHAKA, MAY 25

Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan has claimed that businessman Akhtaruzzaman Shahin is the key suspect in the murder of parliamentarian Anwarul Azim Anar and his ministry was working with India and the US to catch him and put him on trial for the alleged crime.

"We are looking for Akhtaruzzaman Shahin. He is a key sus-

pect and wanted. We have sought help from Indian, Nepal and US law enforcement agencies to put him on trial. We are working on a system to bring Shahin back. We are in touch with all agencies concerned, including the Interpol, to ensure justice to our parliamentarian's family. We have already arrested three persons, including a woman. Two of them have criminal backgrounds and we are

checking the antecedents of the woman," said the minister.

Asked about the motive behind the murder, the Home Minister said, "We will reveal it soon." Repeated attempts to contact Shahin in the US went in vain, but his brother Md Shahiduzzaman, mayor of Kotchandpur municipality in Bangladesh's Jhenaidah, demanded stern action against his brother if found guilty. — PTI

## Army Chief visits his own regiment ahead of retirement

NEW DELHI, MAY 25

Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande, who is due to retire on May 31, today visited his regiment, the Bombay Sappers, to which he was commissioned into 42 years ago.

Gen Pande was commissioned into the Bombay Sappers, a specialised engineering regiment of the Army, in December 1982. — TNS

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How words are empty shells unless you transform them into vehicles of connections

ARTS PAGE 3



Restoring green canopies is essential to cool down cities, yet we're doing opposite

INDEPTH PAGE 6

CHANDIGARH | 26 MAY 2024

People-driven initiatives keep men of letters alive and relevant in Punjab



A theatre group pays homage to thespian Gursaran Singh, who was as much celebrated during his lifetime as after his demise.

MEMORY KEEPERS

SARIKA SHARMA

Eh jo rangan ch chitre ne khur jaange
Eh jo marmar ch ukre ne mit jaange
Balde hathaan ne jehre hawa vich likhe
Haraf oh hameshaan likhe rehange

(These painted in colours shall deface
These engraved in marbles shall efface
Those in air, hands-ablaze craft
Words such, till eternity shall last)

(From 'Poems by Surjit Patar', translated by Gurshinder Jagpal)

PASSING by a Ludhiana court in the twilight hour, poet Surjit Patar had imagined paintings fading away with time, sculptures eroding, only words hanging in the air, lasting till eternity...

On June 9, thousands of farm and industrial workers, along with literateurs and intellectuals, will gather at Barnala's grain market in memory of the late poet. Days away from the paddy-sowing season, these men and women will brave the heat to pay homage to one of their own...

Cut to the summer of 2019. Novelist Jaswant Singh Kanwal, the venerable luminary of Punjabi prose, was turning 100. To celebrate his eight-decade career in writing — marked by words of resistance — writers, scholars and activists from across the state converged upon Dhudike village in Moga...

ਬੁਨਿਆਦੀ ਕੰਮ ਹੈ, ਆਪਣੇ ਗਿਆਨ ਨੂੰ ਲੋਕਾਂ ਦੇ ਬਲ ਨਾਲ ਜੋੜਨਾ।

The fundamental aspect is to channel people's power through your work. — Jaswant Singh Kanwal



The annual Purnamashi Punjabi Jorr Mela, held at Dhudike in Moga, celebrates Jaswant Singh Kanwal's classic novel, 'Purnamashi'.

Sumail Sidhu, a historian. After his death a year later, the mela (now held for three to four days) has continued as a testament to Kanwal's indelible legacy, a homage to the resilience of the human spirit immortalised in his stories.

Dhudike, the village of Jaswant Singh Kanwal (as also Lala Lajpat Rai), is the centre of all activities as Kanwal's novels often unfolded in its setting. Activities aren't focused solely on Kanwal, but other writers as well. For instance, it celebrated the writings of Shiv Batalvi and Balraj Sahni last year.

If Kanwal is credited with making the countryside an active ecosystem and inventing an appropriate rural fiction for creating it, Sahni's love for the Punjabi stage was well known. In his book, 'Balraj, My Brother', Bhisham Sahni writes how Balraj would sometimes go all the way from Bombay to Amritsar to take part in Gursaran Singh's plays.



Spectacles of writer Ram Sarup Ankhil will be part of a museum being instituted in Barnala in his memory.



A memorial for Pash, as envisaged by his friend Amarjit Chandan. The project could not be realised.

Following Gursaran Singh's death, his daughters have made attempts to memorialise his life and work through various initiatives. While an online archive preserves his books, plays and photographs, a museum was opened in 2017 at his Chandigarh house where Gursaran Singh spent the last 25 years of his life.

plays, documentaries on his work, copies of Punjabi magazines Sardal and Samta that he edited, books he published, photos, letters, TV plays, writings of scholars on his theatre and some recordings of the drama performances.

Gursaran Singh was one writer who was as much celebrated during his lifetime as he is today. While his proteges Shabdeesh and wife Anita started the Gursaran Singh Naat Utsav in Chandigarh seven years before his death in 2011, the biggest celebration of his genius was held in 2006, when he was honoured for his contribution to the literary and cultural landscape of Punjab.

Melas, an amalgam of literary events and cultural performances to commemorate writers, are a regular feature across Punjab. The longest running among these is Prof Mohan Singh Mela held in Ludhiana in the memory of poet Prof Mohan Singh.

In their own way to pay homage to Norah Richards, the grand old dame of Punjabi theatre, students from Punjabi University would perform plays at Andretta in Palampur. This stopped post-Covid, but last year, a bust of Richards was installed there; she had

donated her house to the varsity during her lifetime. Punjabi University also maintains the Dr Balbir Singh Sahit Kendra, a research centre established at Dehradun in 1974 in honour of the Sikh scholar.

An addition to these memorials is a complex dedicated to Pash and his comrade Hans Raj at Talwandi Salem in Nakodar where they were killed by terrorists on March 23, 1988. Thirty-six years later, it stands as a testament to Punjab's most enduring and frequently cited symbol of resistance.

Dhir's grandson Ramanjit Sidhu, however, sounds a note of caution and concern. He says symbolic gestures are welcome, but are not enough. "None of his books has been reprinted since his death.

Writer Amarjit Chandan says that while Patar was much cared for in his lifetime by his fans and by the state, Punjabis do not care about the living, but worship the dead as heroes. "Our folk wisdom tells us that Punjabis are grave-worshipping people. We ought to learn from the West on how they commemorate their great women and men.

Following writer Ram Sarup Ankhil's death in 2010, Barnala's most famous street, Katcha College Road, was dedicated to him by a local administrative official and a milestone was duly installed. The street name, sadly, never came into use and the milestone was later removed.

Sixteen years back, Prof Pritam Singh passed away. Seeing no hope from successive governments, Ankhil's family has now started converting a part of the house into a museum dedicated to the writer; the manuscripts well-preserved, his desk in place, his slippers awaiting someone to step into them.

Surjit Patar performs at the 17th Prof Mohan Singh Mela, started by Jagdev Singh Jassowal in Ludhiana, in 1995.



# VARIETY



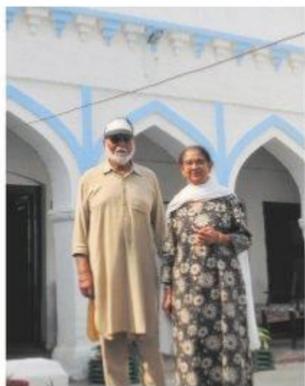
Maj Gurnam Singh (extreme left) and other legendary polo players with Gayatri Devi.

## Mithapur's polo legacy

Jalandhar village's sporting glory is not confined to hockey

APARNA BANERJI

IN 1987, following an open polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo Grounds in New Delhi, the chief guest, 'Maharani' Gayatri Devi of Jaipur, requested a meeting with a dashing player, Major Narinder Singh. Complimenting him, she said, "Narinder, you were the best today. Your complete nearside backhander goal was that of a 10+ handicap player." That tall, strapping 'lad' of 44 is 81 today, and Lt Col Narinder Singh (ret'd) remains as passionate about the sport as ever.



Lt Col Narinder Singh (ret'd) and wife at Daroga Haveli in Mithapur. MALIKAJI SINGH

Hidden away in the bylanes of Mithapur village in Jalandhar, which has produced several hockey players of international repute, is the blink-and-miss entrance to Daroga Haveli. Horses and dapper turbaned men on horseback share space with maharajas and generals in sepia-toned pictures at the haveli, which bears testimony to its sporting, military and equestrian legacies.

Between four generations, the house boasts of two men who served in World War I and II, the village's first hockey Olympian gold medallist and two international polo players.

Lt Col Narinder Singh is the surviving keeper of the family's equestrian and military heritage. His grandfather, Subedar Labh Singh, a World War I veteran, was referred to as Daroga Sahib, hence the haveli's name.

Daroga Sahib's octogenarian grandson has many interesting tales to tell. These involve the likes of Prince (now King) Charles, Maharaja of Jaipur Sawai Mansingh, Gayatri Devi and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw. He recalls how he was a reserve player for the young Prince Charles when he wielded the stick for a game of polo in India.

Lt Col Narinder Singh's father Swarup Singh, who was in the Indian Air Force, was among the hockey legends who bagged gold in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. His uncle, Maj Gurnam Singh, an equestrian and polo prodigy, rubbed shoulders with royalty and polo legends. A young Narinder picked up horse riding and

a penchant for polo from him.

A photograph of Maj Gurnam Singh with Gen FRR Bucher (second Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army), his wife Lady Maureen Bucher and Sam Manekshaw holds a pride of place in the family's hall of fame.

"My uncle started playing polo at 38. He was a gallant cavalry man, who saw action in West Asia, Egypt and Europe. He remained a prisoner of war in Italy. A passionate rider, during his polo years, he went on to win a number of tournaments in Meerut, Dehradun, Delhi, Bombay and Madras. He also excelled in hockey and football," says Lt Col Narinder Singh.

Though immensely proud of Mithapur's sporting credentials, he laments how people in Punjab have forgotten the nuances and charm of polo.

"The golden era is long past. It grieves me immensely," he says. "Sponsorships for the game have dried up. Military patronage isn't what it used to be. We rode on fine Indian-bred horses at home and Argentinian horses abroad. Now, no one has the time and money. Maharaja Jai Singh was my contemporary. The Jaipur royal family is the only patron in whom hope prevails. I see the sport's future in the Jaipur scion, Padmanabh Singh," he adds.

## Ordinary people's heritage

Abohar is an example of how small towns do not figure in large canvas of national and regional history

YOGESH SNEHI

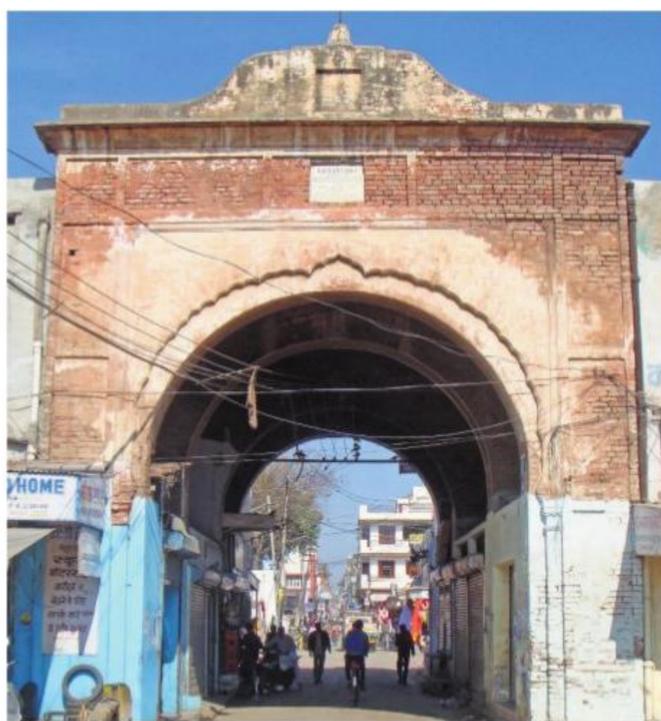
INDIA'S monumental heritage is a complex articulation of its imperial past. These monuments range from palaces, forts, *serais*, temples, mosques, gurdwaras and memorials. In an attempt to rethink these imperial legacies and decolonise our contemporary narratives of the past after 1947, the state of Punjab went on to construct a large number of war memorials from the medieval to modern eras to re-tell Punjab's persecution by the Mughals, the British colonial state and subsequently, Pakistan. The most recent example is the Punjab State War Heroes Memorial and Museum inaugurated in 2016. The only alternative voice is the Partition Museum (2017) at Amritsar.

UNESCO also recognises built heritages associated with imperial pasts of modern nation-states. Thus, notions of heritage in both global and national contexts continue to be tied with national and imperial pasts, giving little space to conversations on what may constitute ordinary people's heritage.

A large chunk of Punjab's population lives in its small towns, which emerged as a result of massive engineering of canal irrigation systems since the late 19th century. These towns and their people do not figure in the large canvas of national and regional history. They have been ripped off from the narratives of heritage and history, despite the fact that these towns play a critical role in shaping the history of Punjab, as a crucial link between villages and large urban centres.

On October 15, 2021, a grand Gopal Temple was inaugurated at the historic *gaushala* in Abohar. The temple was constructed after demolishing a more than a century-old well (*johar*) on the premises. The demolition of the gateway and the well didn't make any news. Designed in a minimalist style, the well carried a Shekhawati oeuvre. Its construction was supervised by Master Mahipal Shukya, the manager of the *gaushala* committee in early 20th century.

The well was approached through a beautiful gateway made in red sandstone and white marble. The *gaushala* had a separate gateway. The well must have catered to the needs of the public and also ritual purposes. The city had several wells, but only a few had water fit for drinking purposes. The gateway that approached the *gaushala* well was adorned on the top by two lions made in red sandstone and two cherubs in white marble playing stringed musical instruments. Two cupolas stood on either side and the middle part had the names of donors.



The Kaiser Ganj grain mandi gateway in Abohar, established in 1897, and (below) the gateway leading to the well in the historic *gaushala*. PHOTOS BY THE WRITER



The lower exterior of the gateway was adorned by two turbaned sepoy (like *yakshas*) who wore *dhotis*, held a spear in one hand and a *charkha*-bearing flag in another. The well complex was constructed under the supervision of Mistri Abdulrahim of Dholpur state in Rajasthan. This well came to less use after 1929, when piped water supply became functional through waterworks fed by canal irrigation systems. This monument is a testimony to pre-Partition memory when employing a Muslim mason to construct a *gaushala* wasn't a taboo. The *charkha* had emerged as an important symbol of *swaraj* and *swadeshi*.

At a small distance, close to the Abohar railway station, stands another large gateway of Kaiser Ganj grain mandi. It was established in 1895 as a market for wheat and cotton, crucial products of the canal colonisation project of the British.

The British had already started settling *zamindars* in the surrounding areas of Sukhera Basti since 1857, and needed an

urban community and a trading centre to facilitate marketing of agricultural produce. The gateway was erected to commemorate the 60-year reign of Queen Victoria in 1897. The establishment of the *mandi* led to the migration of enterprising traders and entrepreneurs from Rajasthan and Haryana, who brought with them a variety of languages and cultures, transforming the city into a cosmopolitan centre.

With a circular arch and foliated arc, projected as standing on thin pilasters, this blending attempted to naturalise the colonial presence in India. Bereft of emotions, it is a monument nobody notices. Yet, it stands as a testament to history. The gateway has survived due to repairs done by the Municipal Committee.

These two gateways should force us to think about ideas of heritage and belonging in a small town. Both symbolised different stages of memory of colonisation. Yet, one survives and the other doesn't.

Abohar still has several surviving monumental legacies. When one imagines the preservation of tangible heritage of India, consciousness of these local heritages should become part of policy-making. In absence of these interventions, small towns will die and these deaths will be a testimony to the loss of heritage, loss of history.

A lot of ancient and medieval small towns of Europe survived the historical upheavals and radical refashioning because they could claim a heritage, their place in history.

— The writer teaches history at Dr BR Ambedkar University, Delhi

### CAPTION CONTEST 1460

MUKESH AGGARWAL



Entries are invited to suggest a caption for the photograph. The caption should only be in English, witty and not exceeding 10 words, and reach Spectrum, The Tribune, Chandigarh, 160030, by Thursday. The best five captions will be published and awarded ₹300, ₹250, ₹200, ₹150 and ₹100, respectively. Each caption must be accompanied by a clipping of the caption contest and its number. Photocopies or scans of the caption photo won't be accepted. Online subscribers may attach an e-paper clipping at captionpics@tribunemail.com or a scanned copy of the e-paper clipping. Please mention the pin code and phone number in your address.

### SELECTED ENTRIES FOR CAPTION CONTEST 1459



SPECTRUM MAY 19 ISSUE (SEE PHOTO)

- Twitter feed — Meenakshi Sharma via epaper, Amritsar
- Trunk call — Karnail Singh, Mohali
- Direct benefit transfer — Aditya Kalia, Manimajra
- Foodpeckers — Dharuv Patwari via epaper, Gurdaspur
- Heads up — Balvinder Kaur, Karnal

## Taco tonic shift to finger food



FOOD TALK  
PUSHPESH PANT

TEX-MEX foods are immensely popular in India. There are many reasons for this. The ingredients used are familiar to most Indians—tomatoes, *rajma*-like kidney beans, corn and chillies. Then, there is the touch of the exotic contributed by the salsa with added piquancy of hot tabasco sauce and jalapeño chillies. To top it all is the creamy guacamole prepared with the avocado pear. Till recently, avocado was restricted to specialised food marts in metros and big cities. It was and continues to be rather expensive. This is what has made anything prepared with avocado aspirational. Avocado on toast has put in shade the long-standing favourite of the vegetarians: mushroom on toast.

We have a particular weakness for taco because once you have the shells at hand, you can fill them up with any leftover delicious tidbits, or prepare a healthy filling from scratch. It is a finger food that can be served as an excellent canapé with cocktails or as a starter.

In short, taco can enrich our lives in many ways. It can encourage children to consume veggies in a fun way, quell hunger pangs between meals, or even substitute for a light lunch or supper. Once ready, taco can be consumed at room temperature. Not long ago, we treated ourselves to a delightful taco packed with firm white fish-filling topped with guacamole. We popped it in the mouth and sat speechless for a minute or more. It is not surprising that many *pizzerias* are now also doubling as *taquerias*. Some are experimenting with fusion dips like mango in pineapple *chutney*, honey-flavoured mustard, etc.

No one knows for sure how the taco was born.

### TACO FATAFAT

#### INGREDIENTS

##### FOR TACO SHELLS

Corn flour	1/2 cup
All-purpose flour	1/4 cup
Refined oil	1 tbsp
Salt	A pinch
Oil	For deep frying

##### FOR FILLING

Tomatoes (medium-sized)	2	Jalapeño	2 tbsp
Onions (medium-sized)	2	Iceberg lettuce head	1/2 small
Garlic clove (peeled, crushed)	2-3	Lemon juice	1 tsp
Red bell pepper	Half	Tabasco sauce	1/2 tsp
Yellow bell pepper	Half	Salt	To taste
Green bell pepper	Half	Black peppercorn (optional)	
Avocado	1	Any other filling preferred: leftover <i>rajma</i> (kidney beans), chickpeas, chicken mince, etc.	
Green chillies	2-3		
Sweet corn	2 tbsp		



#### METHOD

Mix both the flours, salt and oil in a bowl and knead with hand to obtain a soft dough. Keep aside (covered) for 20 minutes. Then, sprinkle some flour on a board and roll with a thin rolling pin into large discs. Cut it into a large circle, prick all over with a fork on both sides. (Use the leftover pieces after cutting the dough to knead again and roll into another disc). Place the rolling pin in the middle of the disc and press both sides of the rolled dough on to the pin. Slide the pin carefully and you will have the taco shell ready to fry. Heat oil in a pan and when hot, deep fry the shells for 25-30 seconds. Remove carefully with tongs or slotted sieve. Place on kitchen towel to dry and cool.

#### PREPARING THE GUACAMOLE

Crack open the avocado from the top, press downwards till it meets resistance from the stone. Then turn clockwise and anticlockwise to loosen and remove the stone. Cut the fruit into half, criss-cross the flesh and carefully scoop out all the flesh. Crush it with the potato-masher. Sprinkle salt, lemon juice and freshly ground black peppercorn.

#### SALSA

Chop tomatoes into small dices. Cut onion into fine dices, wipe clean. Chop peppers and chillies finely. Chop iceberg coarsely. Put all ingredients for the salsa — tomatoes, onions and bell peppers, crushed garlic, jalapeño in a bowl and the prepared guacamole. Make a bed with lettuce in a taco sheet. Fill it up with salsa. Top with generous layers of guacamole and enjoy.

According to some, the affluent elite in Mexico feasted on this finger food, filling it with leftovers of expensive meat and seafood. Another food lore informs us that the Portuguese carried it with them to Macau, where a local version

pele is popular. Nowadays, it is a street food that usually has chicken or pork mince, corn and cheese inside to make it tempting.

We have pleasure in sharing the recipe for taco shells, salsa and guacamole this time.

Words are empty shells unless you transform them into vehicles of connections

# Empowering the story

NEELAM MANSINGH CHOWDHRY

**C**AN there be a single perspective for any event? Two people in an identical situation generally interpret their participation in completely different ways. For example, my experience in an overcrowded bus, a long wait at the gas station, a sudden downpour without an umbrella may vary from the person next to me going through the same events at the same time. When we refer to momentous events, war, brutality, injustice, there is no single narrative, no single interpretation and no single approach and, certainly, no single opinion. The world has become noisy with a cacophonous range of voices that varies from the absurd to the bewildering.

In this context, the film 'Rashomon' comes to mind, due to its emphasis on the subjectivity of truth and the uncertainty of factual accuracy. The film, directed by Akira Kurosawa, shows a murder witnessed by four people who give contradictory interpretations of the same incidents. All are speaking the truth, or what they imagine is the truth, triggering a debate about subjectivity versus objectivity in human perception, memory and reporting. A story or text could be considered dead when there is an absence of exchange, a sense of closure. A good work of art, I believe, is about movement, about the power of the story determined by its migration across cultures.

A playwright is the poet, the metaphysician, the historian. However, once the play has been received by an audience, it has a life of its own that goes beyond the intentions of the playwright and the director. Words are empty shells unless you transform them into vehicles of connections. It's not only a question of feeling, but also of showing. One can't show what one doesn't know or what one can't imagine, and in order to communicate the text, a director must have chemistry with the text, internalise it and transform it into something real. On the other hand, an actor is a person who experiences a transmutation with the written word and infuses



Jean Racine's play 'Phaedra', translated into Punjabi by Surjit Patar as 'Fida', examines the question of who is faithful to whom.

the lines with his experience, memory and emotions. It is important to recognise that the interactions between the text, director, actor and the audience constitute a totally new irreducible element.

When Vishal Bhardwaj directs 'Haider', 'Omkaara' and 'Maqbool', he transports Shakespeare to Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and the Mumbai underworld, without losing connection with the essential essence of the narrative. Does the text cease to belong to Shakespeare, or does he as an artist free himself from formulaic stereotyping, infusing fresh blood and vigour to a Shakespearean text?

Interpreting and looking is authorised and one has a right to be curious. Then you ask yourself, what would Shakespeare have done if he were to write the text today? Would he treat his text as sacred and unchangeable, or recognise its fluidity?

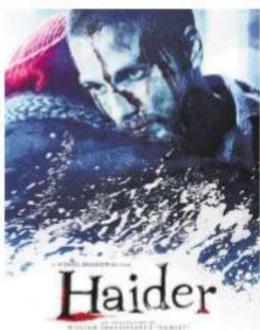
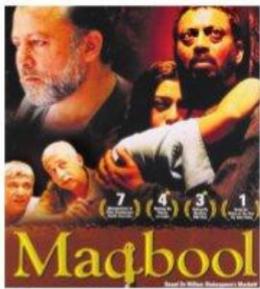
When you change, chop, rearrange and reinterpret text, the anxiety is about rights and permissions. How does one go to Shakespeare or Jean Racine and seek permission? The query that emerges: how can we detect precisely what the writer intended? My answer is that we cannot unless we are working directly with the playwright, as I did for 35 years with the inspirational Surjit Patar, who not only translated the plays of Federica Garcia Lorca, Jean Racine, Rabindranath Tagore,

where an actor recites a written text, illustrating it with a series of movements and actions in order to make it understood. Interpreted this way, theatre became an accessory to dramatic literature. Ideally, the play is a beginning and not an end to interpretation.

Does the playwright put in every moment of silence, intake of breath, inflection, quality, texture and tone in the words, or the pauses between them? A word begins as an impulse stimulated by a feeling, an idea, an attitude. It contains within it an intricate web of meaning, interpreted and transformed in various ways. The meaning can change from the playwright to the director and inside the actor. The word is really a tiny, invisible, unseen formation, containing memory and a remembrance.

Every word that is written has a history that is older than the tongue that has spoken it and every myth has had many masters. In this way, we can see that the images that appear in any play are drawn from multiple cultural sources and, therefore, each play has many authors even before it is brought to life through performance. I am drawn to the many voices that speak through the text. Theatre is about narratives, about telling a story, about transforming the written word into characters, sounds, pauses, movements, body language. The literary text then metamorphoses into a performative experience when the director and the actor pull out the invisible from it. The invisible is hidden, subterranean, intangible, and creates the meta text or the subtext. Words are like ciphers on paper and it is through performance that they come alive.

Many people believe that theatre is a place



In 'Maqbool', 'Haider' and 'Omkaara', Vishal Bhardwaj transports Shakespeare to the Mumbai underworld, Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh, without losing connection with the essential essence of the narrative.



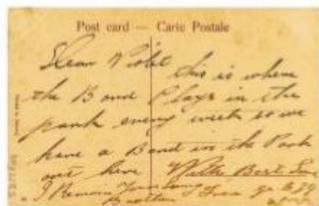
'Rashomon' triggers a debate about subjectivity & objectivity.

An exhibition of postcards from early 20th century offers a peek into social, political, cultural landscape of British India

## GLIMPSES OF HISTORY

SEEMA SACHDEVA

**O**N the reverse of a set of four postcards with images of buildings in Calcutta are neatly penned messages by Eloise, wife of a British official. Instead of writing a letter, Eloise had shared those postcards giving her aunt Jeanne back home an insight into her lived experiences as a foreigner in undivided India. The series is from the collection of nearly 80 postcards currently on display at an exhibition, 'Hello & Goodbye: Postcards from the Early 20th Century', at the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru.



Giving a peek into the larger social and political framework in the early 1900s, each of these postcards has its own story to tell. Curated from a collection of more than 1,300 postcards, a majority of which have been gifted by avid art collectors Kenneth X and Joyce Robbins, these delve into the country's print culture as well as the colonial history, mostly from the perspective of Europeans, particularly wives of British officers, who posted these back home to share snippets from their lives in India. A window to the social, political and cultural landscape from the 1890s till 1940s, the postcards take you on a visual journey that includes iconic monuments like the Taj Mahal in Agra, Esplanade Band Stand in Bombay, General Post Office in Calcutta, different ranks in the Indian army, of

Ganpati from the embellished Raja Ravi Varma press collection, or simply a leaf out of the life of common people.

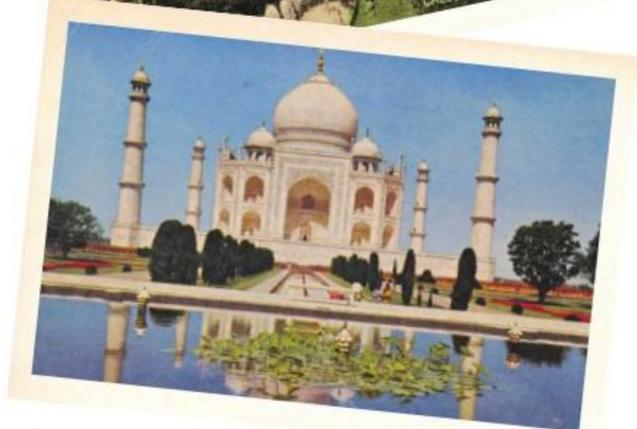
According to Meghana Kuppa, who curated this exhibition with Khushi Bansal, "Early 20th century was a time of much action, especially with the struggle for Independence gaining ground. We drew a lot of inspiration from the idea of identity and started looking closely at the social context." While it was mostly the Europeans who were users of postcards, a small collection is of those written by Indians to fellow countrymen, says Khushi, adding that these included postcards by Marwadis, Gujaratis and Parsis, the latter being huge patrons of photography.

In contrast to the printed imagery of the European presses that stereotyped Indians and disseminated propaganda of the Crown, the prints from the Indian presses circulated imagery supporting the burgeoning nationalist movement, they say.

On the response to the exhibition, Khushi says, "Besides scholars and senior citizens, many young people are attending the exhibition. The browsing station is an experience many seem to enjoy. Besides this, we also have a counter of yellow postcards on which people can write their messages and we post it."

Making it relevant to the present generation, an application on an iPad has been developed, says Meghana. A kiosk has been installed where people can digitally create their own postcards while taking material from within the exhibition. "We've made it a little fun by incorporating elements like taking your own picture and adding it to the postcard. You can write a message and send it to a loved one through WhatsApp and other social media channels."

The postcards are part of the museum's broad collection of 'tiny objects' which fit a relatively small dimension. These include textile labels, stamps, matchboxes, postcards, etc. Of the tiny object series, exhibiting the postcards is just the beginning. The exhibition, which started on April 6, is on till August 18.



# Alert, contemplative, courageous

AVIJIT PATHAK

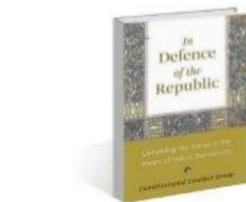
HERE is something more to democracy than the carnival of periodic elections. If democracy tends to degenerate into some form of electoral autocracy, we ought to be alert, and remind ourselves of the fundamental values of democracy — say, the nuanced art of reasoned debate and meaningful dialogue, the presence of a vibrant civil society, the art of living with cultural and religious pluralism, and above all, the humility on the part of the state machineries to listen to people's needs and grievances. However, amid the triumphalism of militant Hindutva, the aggression of hyper-nationalism, and the carefully crafted cult of narcissism, we realise the intensity of the threat to the ideal of India as a democratic Republic.

Hence, it arouses hope that the Constitutional Conduct Group — a group of former civil servants of the All India and Central Services — has chosen to remain alert, contemplative and courageous. In fact, as I read the letters they have written, or the statements they have made, I

tend to agree with Aruna Roy — one of the contributors of this volume — when she invokes George Orwell, and reminds us that “in times of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act”. Indeed, these civil servants do no escape from the truth as they say that “the pathology of hate and division pursued by the present ruling establishment... has led to the collapse of values on which our Constitution is based”. Let me quote from a courageous letter they wrote to the Prime Minister on April 26, 2022:

“The threat we are facing is unprecedented and at stake is not just constitutional morality and conduct; it is the unique syncretic social fabric, which is our greatest civilisational inheritance and which our Constitution is so meticulously designed to conserve, that is likely to be torn apart. Your silence in the face of this enormous societal threat, is deafening.”

Likewise, in an open letter written on January 7, 2023, they demanded “stern action” against Pragya Thakur for her hate speech — the way she urged the Hindus to keep their vegetable knives sharp so that “those knives could be used to cut off the heads of those indulging in love



**IN DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC: UPHOLDING THE VALUES AT THE HEART OF INDIA'S DEMOCRACY**  
by Constitutional Conduct Group. Edited by Deb Mukharji, Meena Gupta, Amitabha Pande and Sundar Burra.  
Speaking Tiger.  
Pages 437.  
₹599

‘jihad’. Be it a letter to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, or an open letter to the corporates, or a letter to the Election Commission, or for that matter, an open letter to the citizens of India — I realise that they have kept their conscience alive, and I see their deep concern for protecting the

spirit of democracy from the tyranny of majoritarianism, the virus of the propaganda machinery disseminated through heavily compromised and manipulated media houses, and associated fear of electoral malpractices.

These argumentative interventions remind us of the growing “assault on an arrogant, majoritarian state”, and the way “civil society activists striving to defend the sacrosanct principles of secularism and human rights are subjected to arrest and indefinite detention under draconian laws that block our statute book”.

Apart from these 75 politically and culturally-sensitive letters and statements, what has further enriched the book is a set of essays written by some of our distinguished scholars, activists and journalists like Apoorvanand, Anjana Prakash, Anjali Bhardwaj, Pamela Philipose, Madan Lokur, Aakar Patel, EAS Sarma, Neera Chandhoke, Rebecca Mammen John, GN Devy, Prema Singh Bindra, Harsh Mander, Julio Ribeiro and Siraj Hussain. From their insightful reflections, let me take two illustrations in order to invite the reader to the text. First, let her/him feel the intensity of Madan

Lokur's anguish over the state of the legal system in the country:

“Remember Stan Swamy — a patient of Parkinson's? He was denied a straw and sipper, and had to approach a court for this. Think about it — should such a matter have ever come to court? Was any action taken against the jailor who refused the straw and sipper? Was any action taken against the investigating officer who instructed the prosecution lawyer to oppose the request? Was any action taken against the judge who gave 20 days to the prosecution to file a reply?”

Second, if you and I really want to heal this wounded Republic, it is important to contemplate on the danger of what Neera Chandhoke has described as “democratic backsliding” in contemporary India:

“The delivery of social goods as personalised benefit, not as public goods that characterise the welfare state, the development of a major cult of personality, and demagoguery that seems to sway audiences have been accompanied by the elimination of rights that protect citizens against the power of the state... This is democratic backsliding.”

Is it time to wake up?

## Shared, remembered lives

BINDU MENON

WRITER Arundhati Roy once described the pandemic as a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. “We can choose to walk through it,” Roy wrote, “dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world.” Four years since the pandemic, the choice remains anybody's guess.

In some way, Amitava Kumar's novel, too, appears to portray a gateway between two worlds — of a father and daughter, Jadu and Jugnu. These aren't insular worlds but very real and messy entanglements with the social, cultural and political gridlock of a nation. And then, there is the pandemic too.

‘My Beloved Life’ ostensibly follows the life of Jadu, or Jadunath Kunwar, born in 1935 in a village in Bihar, near George Orwell's birthplace. Incidentally, the bungalow which once served as the Orwell residence would at various turns become an opium warehouse, a dilapidated cowshed overrun by stray dogs and pigs, or “animal farm”, as a Patna newspaper cleverly headlined it, and finally a museum dedicated to the writer. While the pandemic does evoke an Orwellian atmosphere, Kumar doesn't make it the novel's mainstay. Instead, he ushers in the familiar world of an everyday India, where the mythical and mundane sit well, where the village and city effortlessly intersect, where the humdrum of the personal is ever so linked with the hubbub of the political.

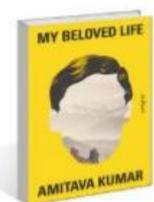
When Jadu comes to Patna for college, it seems like rebirth, a feeling of having become modern. So we witness Jadu's first flush of infatuation, his learnings about life and language from the *kavi sammelans* he attends, his meeting with the genial Tenzing Norgay who tells students why team spirit matters more than the lunge towards the summit, and then the many encounters with caste. When a student, Ramdeo Manjhi, narrates in class how he was once punished for drinking water from a pot in school, there is

a studied silence. That day Jadu realises the subject of caste is untouchable too.

Along the way, ordinary and momentous events get enmeshed within the narrative. Like a docu-reel, we witness the rise of Jayaprakash Narayan and the movement he shepherded, the imposition of Emergency, and the flight of a young Dalai Lama from Tibet. It's the story of a nation where a Dashrath Manjhi can tame mountains and a Gauri Lankesh can be felled by the bullets of bigots. Nothing feels disjointed or superficial in Kumar's prose, nor is there any grand, expansive unfolding of events, but a gentle nudge into the theatre of history as it plays out.

The novel, like most of Kumar's works, is also a mandatory ode to his beloved Patna. It's the city where Jadu builds his life as a history professor or where Jugnu finds love. Yet, when her marriage breaks down and Jugnu takes flight to the US to become a television journalist, she finds anchorage in a new life and love. In this distant country, the experiences of migrants and the everyday struggles of the Blacks invoke parallels to the country she has left behind.

‘My Beloved Life’ is also a deeply personal story, of the tender love between a father and daughter. Over long-distance calls, as Jugnu listens to Jadu read out a few paragraphs of a memoir that he intends to publish, she realises that in doing so, her father is calling her back, “even if momentarily, to a life we had shared”. It is these shared, remembered lives that Kumar honours, as also the irreplaceable and incomparable histories that hold them together.



**MY BELOVED LIFE**  
by Amitava Kumar.  
Aleph.  
Pages 348.  
₹799

## Retreat, to return

RACHNA SINGH

WHEN the wizened snow peaks of Kumaon beckon, Iti Arya, a recluse writer and editor from Gurgaon, must heed the call. So, she shuts down her lonely, unhappy, 50-something life without regret and heads to ‘The Dacha’ and her grandmothers, a 90-and-thereabouts Badi Amma and Rosinka Singh, all of 102. Embraced by the misty and resplendent arms of Kumaon and the loving, unquestioning love of the two ancient women, Iti's loneliness, uncertainty and anxiety dissipate and she begins her slow but steady march to a realisation that she must ‘retreat to return’.

The August rains that play hide and seek with the sun keep the inhabitants of The Dacha safe from the encroachment of the outside world. But caught in the confines of the remote cottage on dark, stormy nights, with the candle flickering, its denizens Badi Amma and Rosinka journey back into the past and their dark secrets come tumbling out. Caught in the mayhem of memories along with Iti is Nina, of mysterious antecedents.

Namita Gokhale, a creative wordsmith, has crafted a story within a story with great finesse. She peels off each layer bit by bit, surprising the reader at every turn. Gokhale weaves an elegant, literary tapestry with poetic gems and philosophical threads that make the reader pause and introspect. She examines with loving warmth as well as a no-holds-barred honesty, the ageing and deterioration of the human body, the mind and memory. At the same time, she dwells upon the foibles of youth and the anxiety of losing a loved one.

The story of ‘Never Never Land’ also encompasses within its frame-work the concern about global warming, human and urban encroachment on pristine natural beauty and the raging fallout of man's unsolicited interventions. And yet, despite the

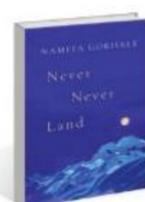
fact that the book hinges around the thought of impending death, with constant allusions to an ephemeral life, it leaves the reader with a serene sense of acceptance, even hope. “It is not renewal but revival,” says Iti, and we agree wholeheartedly.

Very arresting about the book is the manner in which Gokhale seamlessly interlaces music, literature and art. The bits and pieces of music played on the gramophone or sung in quavering voices by Rosinka and Badi Amma, from ‘The Last Rose of Summer’ to *Auld Lang Syne*, are evocative of a leisurely time when we were not caught up in the frenzy of a rat race.

Nicholas Roerich's paintings hanging in the dusty, mouldy library of The Dacha make him a living, breathing presence. It is almost as though the brilliant blues and pristine whites of his canvas are brought to radiant, vibrant life. The gorgeous book cover, with its detailing of Roerich's painting ‘Oriot Messenger of the White Burkhan’, adds to the uncanny feeling that Roerich is the sentinel that guards the entry to this beautiful Never Never Land, where the sage mountains speak to those who would care to listen.

Like the main protagonist, Iti, while reading ‘Never Never Land’, I too felt: ‘I was alone, and myself, in a place where I belonged.’

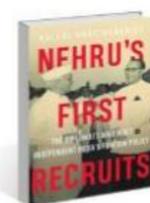
A must-read for lovers of literature, music and art.



**NEVER NEVER LAND**  
by Namita Gokhale.  
Speaking Tiger.  
Pages 170.  
₹499

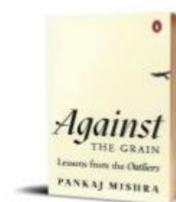


**BACKFLAP**



**NEHRU'S FIRST RECRUITS**  
by Kallol Bhattacharjee.  
HarperCollins.  
Pages 376. ₹699

Ambassadors have tales to tell, believes Kallol Bhattacharjee, and he uses their stories to tell the tale of an India which was just rising from the ashes of war, famine and communal strife. This book presents the foundational history of India's diplomatic corps, as it shaped under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.



**AGAINST THE GRAIN**  
by Pankaj Mishra.  
Penguin Random House.  
Pages 297. ₹399

AR Rahaman, Uday Kotak, Nandan Nilekani and many more... Pankaj Mishra skilfully retraces the journeys of these bold outliers, delving into their experiences of hope, disillusionment, victory, defeat, joy and pain. Drawing from interviews on Mishra's podcast *Outliers*, the book portrays how some of India's most prominent figures confront the challenges of life.

## A rather simplistic survey of Hinduism

PURUSHOTTAM AGRAWAL

THIS ambitiously titled book intends to undertake a survey of Hinduism over a period of five millennia and a vast geographical spread, including south-east Asia, but the result is a very simple (at times even simplistic) narrative interspersed with quotations from Rig Veda, Atharva Veda, some Upanishads, Mahabharata and important early modern *bhakti* poets from north India.

For the Ramayana, Varma has chosen to reproduce excerpts of his own previously published version.

Almost three-fourth of the volume consists of translated passages from the above-mentioned texts. Commenting on the translations of Vedic hymns used by him, Varma notes, “Sexuality is openly discussed in the Rig Vedic hymns, without any taboo which might be shocking to us now... As an example, take the hymn attributed to Rishi Budh Saumya in which the sexual act is metaphorically described as ploughing the earth and reaping the harvest... which sounds bawdy to us. Bhagwati Devi Sharma translates it in

a misleading and garbled fashion. Indeed, translations done under the guidance of Arya Samaj leader Dayanand Saraswati suffer from this malaise — they falsely try to cover the Vedic sexuality with a fig leaf.”

This translator, according to Varma, is a ‘disciple of Pandit Shri Ram Sharma’, which means, probably belonging to ‘Gayatri Parivar’, an organisation quite different from Arya Samaj. In any case, embarrassment about ‘sexuality’ is confined neither to the context of Vedas, nor to Arya Samaj.

Historicity in the Vedas is also a red herring for this kind of ‘reading’. Varma comments on another translator, Devi Chand, clearly an Arya Samaji. Rejecting the 14th century Vedic interpreter Sayana's reading of *jangid* in the Atharva Veda as “a tree found near Banaras”, Devi Chand calls it ‘illogical, as it savours of history, but the Vedas are free from history’. Reacting to this, Varma is blunt enough, “Indeed, Devi Chand is an averter of meaning.”

Varma relies more on the translations by Griffith and Wendy Doniger and provides brief notes on the historical context of the Vedic period and later.



**HINDUISM FROM RIG VEDA TO REPUBLIC**  
by Ram Varma.  
Rupa.  
Pages 676.  
₹1,295

However, care for historical context simply disappears when the author comes to early modern north India. The rulers (Turks, Afghans and Mughals) and poets (Kabir, Tulsidas, Meera and Soordas) of this period are discussed entirely independent of each other, as if these poets were outside their historical times. Varma sees ‘a threat to Hinduism from Islam’, which is more a polemical than a historical description, but even if that was the case, how was this

‘threat’ met and what were the consequences? This period saw the emergence of a distinctly Indian Islam and a *bhakti*-infused Hinduism drawing more on everyday life and nearer past than on the Vedic antiquity. ‘Ram’, the name given to divinity by both the *nirgunpanthi* and *sagunpanthi bhakti* poets in this period, had no place in the Vedic pantheon. In this period, a revered Sufi, Malik Muhammad Jayasi, in clear violation of orthodox Islamic dogma, could declare the equal validity of innumerable paths to reach God, and the authors of various Sufi *tazkivus* (descriptions of holy lives) could mention Ramanand and other eminent Vaishnavas' spiritual achievements with due respect.

*Nirgunpanthi bhakti* made exciting innovations in epistemological methods and ethical thought. It challenged the ‘authority’ of Hindu and Islamic scriptures and social hierarchy. Even the conservative *sagunpanthi bhakti* went beyond just translating the Sanskrit ideas. The book under review seems to be nonchalantly unaware of such exciting features of *bhakti*.

This book in fact reads more like a collection of *svantah sukhiya* (intended for one's

own personal pleasure) notes taken at random without bothering about essential ingredients of a cogent argument.

The author does not consider any thinker, scholar, or poet from the southern parts of India except Adi-Shankar worthy even of a cursory mention. The chapter ‘Debate on Advaita Vedanta Philosophy’ contains nothing of the profound debates around the notion of Advaita. The reader will look in vain here for Ramanuja, Madhava or Vallabha, who, critiquing Adi-Shankar, presented their own alternative, qualified notions of Advaita, leaving considerable impact on Hindu tradition.

It is also a measure of little care for perspective and balance that “Bhagwan” Osho (i.e. Rajneesh) gets more space than the entire Jain tradition.

At the end of this survey, Varma reproduces Godse's justification for assassinating Gandhiji, taking his description of events at face value. The way it is done, reads like an endorsement of the dastardly act.

Even with such serious limitations, this book at least serves the purpose of providing in one volume a collection of accessible translations of some beautiful and profound Vedic hymns.

## REFLECTIONS

## Between despair &amp; hope

TOUCHSTONES  
IRA PANDE

If one were to believe our newspapers or the bilge that is sent out on WhatsApp groups, it is easy to be persuaded that doomsday is upon us. Perhaps, it is a sign of the times that makes us so negative and humourless, or perhaps, it is that we wish to join the herd. It seems almost sinful to be happy and satisfied in a world that has shrunk into small groups, provinces and regions that are eternally at daggers drawn. Yet, look around you and point me to a country (other than little Bhutan) where natural surroundings are preserved, people are polite, caring and gentle, communities live in harmony and simplicity of life is a quality that is actively promoted.

Long ago, before Ravish Kumar became the self-appointed keeper of this nation's conscience, he used to bring to us moving human stories, many of which have stayed with me. His coverage of Varanasi as he did a programme on the constituency that Modi had chosen in 2014, focused not on the campaign but on the forgotten history of Banaras. So he took us to Lamahi, the village that Premchand grew up in and where his memory is preserved in a modest museum. This remarkable institution has a self-appointed caretaker (a Mishraji, if I remember correctly), who guided Ravish through it. The episode ended with Mishraji saying that he felt he had graduated from being a reader of Premchand's fiction to becoming a character from that world. Nothing, in essence, had changed herein for almost a century. The village and its people were still battling with the same social problems that Premchand describes so hauntingly.

There are two other episodes that I remember as vividly: one on the first Gandhi Ashram (now a crumbling ruin) set up somewhere in Meerut and the other on the condition of the poor patients who flock to Delhi's AIIMS for treatment. As they await their turn, several poor patients and their families lie on the pavement outside since they cannot afford to stay anywhere else. Here again, a Dr Dash took us with Ravish to the cancer section and explained how no one, no matter how poor, was ever turned away for lack of money.

The purpose of this long recall is that there is still hope if only we are able to see it. However, since it is sexier to peddle stories of poverty, misery and social injustice, we have forgotten to register that India is multiple times the size of the small developed countries that have enviable records of social welfare.

Let me now take you to some of the stories that come to us from there. The National Health Service (NHS) in UK is now in a state of terminal decline. Its doctors and nurses have gone on strike and in any case, it is so overloaded that even an urgent X-ray requires a long wait. Private healthcare is out of the reach of most, so unlike in India, where the neighbourhood 'dactar' provides immediate care (say nothing of the steroids being pumped into uneducated veins). We seem no worse off. It is almost the same in

the US, where unless you are covered by expensive insurance, you can wait eternally for a kidney transplant or heart surgery. It is no wonder that medical tourism is now a widespread way to access quality medical attention in Indian hospitals. Go to any well-regarded private hospital in India and you will meet people from all over the world, accompanied by touts and translators, who take them to our best doctors and at a fraction of the cost abroad.

Come now to the shameful international reportage of our communal tensions. If we were to blindly believe all we hear and read, everyone in India is a bigoted bully. Yet, honestly speaking, is the Islamophobia in the US any better? Add to that now anti-Semitism, with university campuses across the US erupting in huge student protests, brutally handled by the police and university authorities. Let us not even speak of the rampant racism still practised all over the white world. I concede that comparisons are odious and that we have a shameful record on communal politics, yet how long shall we tolerate different rules applied to developing countries, simply because the big boys' clubs cannot make place for new entrants?

My simple point is that we have all come a long way since 1947 and yes, some terrible mistakes and decisions were taken in those years but, by and large, when I look around the world and try to see one country that has a flawless record in upholding social justice, equality, brotherhood and love, I'm afraid I fail each time. As I said earlier, apart from Bhutan (that practises a form of benign monarchy), I can't think of another country that I would like to live in. Dynastic politics, feudal values, a deep commitment to one's faith, along with some religious intolerance towards those of another faith — these are the warp and weft of India. Trying to eradicate all evil forever will never happen, not at least in my lifetime.

So the next time you open a toxic post or sign a public petition, don't think you've played your part as a responsible citizen. We still have a long journey ahead.

We've come a long way since 1947 and yes, some terrible mistakes have been made. But if we were to blindly believe international reportage, everyone in India is a bigoted bully

## When Nehru visited Hisar, and NDA

LT GEN RAJ KADYAN (RETD)

DURING our trip to the United Kingdom to meet our son last year, we also visited the grandson's school at Harrow. While showing us around, he pointed to the room where Jawaharlal Nehru had stayed as a student. It stirred some memories.

In 1951, the Prime Minister visited Hisar. My brother, commanding the military police unit, piloted the VIP cavalcade to various meeting venues. At the end, after the departing convoy was on the main road, he halted on the side and saluted as the PM's car passed. Within yards, the car screeched to a halt and reversed. Pandit Nehru came out, shook hands with my brother and said, "Thank you, young man, for all your help." My brother remembered that humane gesture all his life.

Prime Minister Nehru was instrumental in selecting Khadakvasla (Pune) as the new site for the National Defence Academy and reviewed the first passing-out parade there in June 1955. He visited NDA again on May 14, 1961. The visit concluded with lunch in the cadets' mess. As per protocol, a visiting dignitary was seated between the Commandant and the Academy Cadet Captain (ACC). I was the ACC.

During the period, our only access to the world was through newspapers. Given our

tight schedule, we only read the sports page. As a result, our horizon was limited.

Since the PM would have had a discussion with the Commandant during pre-lunch hours, it was expected that he would spend more time interacting with me. The prospect was intimidating. No one had tutored me on what I should say or discuss. Such freedom was part of our grooming.

After receiving him in the foyer, I guided the PM to his seat on the centre table on a raised platform. Frail and slightly stooped, he had a handsome peach red complexion. He must have realised the nervous apprehension of a teenager sitting to his right. The hallmark of a great person lies in his descending to the level of the other in conversation. This the PM did, starting with asking where I hailed from.

When I mentioned my village in Rohtak district, he enquired whether we had electricity, roads, running water, etc. I told him of the stone-soled road with once-a-day bus service to the town and that we drew drinking water from the well. More than half the houses were mud structures. There was no electricity and I studied in the dim light of a kerosene lamp. Maybe it was to put me at ease, he evinced keen interest in whatever I told him. On electricity, he said we would be getting it soon; and we did, the very next year.

He asked me about our life in the Acade-

my. Here I was on firm ground.

Emboldened by his easy manner, I ventured into asking, "Sir, why is India a poor country?" He smiled, giving no indication of my naiveté. Then he gave a detailed explanation of how we started at near zero at Independence. I suddenly felt the person sitting beside me was not only the PM of the world's largest democracy with a strong global presence, but was also a patient teacher, a gentle elder.

"Sir, won't the Bhakra Nangal Dam improve our irrigation?" I was in Class 8 when the dam was inaugurated in 1954.

"Yes, of course it will," he replied, predicting that Punjab would soon be India's food basket. He went on to elaborate the country's efforts at industrialisation and scientific progress. In fact, starting a world-class defence academy itself was a great achievement, he mentioned.

When lunch finished, I guided him to the table where the visitors' book was kept. While getting down the approximately 12-inch step, he placed his hand on my shoulder for support. I was suddenly emotional and saw a father figure in him.

We were in North Kashmir when on May 27, 1964 — 60 years ago — news broadcaster Melville deMellow announced the death of PM Nehru. 'What' and not 'who' after Nehru was the common concern of most Indians.

## Striking feats that define Sunil Chhetri

JAYDEEP BASU

THE journey that began on June 12, 2005, in the high-altitude city of Quetta will finally come to an end in the plains of Kolkata on June 6 — an odyssey six days short of 19 years. In between, Sunil Chhetri, the poster boy of Indian football, has set many a record that would be hard to surpass. For the national team, he has played 150 matches, scored 94 goals, and worn the captain's armband in a staggering 87 outings.

This set of cold statistics would have been enough for Chhetri to go down as one of the finest in the nearly 150-year history of Indian football. But it is only a minuscule part of Chhetri's characteristics, almost negligible to those who have followed his career closely. What the diminutive striker has delivered to the national team for close to two decades can sweep away all figures and even the greatest names of the game in India would find it difficult to match.

To put it straight, no one in Indian football has ever managed to score so many crucial goals for the country in so many important make-or-break matches. Even legends like Chuni Goswami, PK Banerjee or Tulsidas Balamani, exceptionally brilliant career graphs don't boast of such a scenario.

Time and again, Chhetri, almost single-handedly, has taken the pain of elevating the otherwise modest Indian football to the next level, no matter how long it could survive there. Think of the two Asian Cup final rounds India made in 2011 and 2019 — neither feat would have been achieved without Chhetri's masterstrokes in decisive encounters.

In the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup final, India needed to beat Tajikistan to qualify for the Asian Cup final rounds after 24 long years. The ground conditions at Delhi's Ambedkar Stadium were far from encouraging — the steady drizzle at regular intervals turned the pitch slushy and impossible for good football. But, on that fateful night of August 13, 2008, Chhetri rose to the occasion to net a hat-trick that resulted in a 4-1 demolition of Tajikistan and a place in the 2011 Asian Cup in Doha, a truly significant occurrence in Indian football.

A decade on, Chhetri didn't lose his sharpness. Without his superb strikes against Myanmar and Kyrgyzstan, India would not have qualified for the 2019 Asian Cup. His two goals in the qualifiers in 2017 changed the complexion of the matches. India qualified from Group A with two matches to spare. Out of India's 11 goals across six matches, the captain scored four in five games.

The goal against Myanmar in Yangon was historic, as it was India's first victory against the neighbours in an away tie since 1953. He later told this writer, "It was in the 90th minute and the match was still goalless. When Udanta (Singh) passed the ball to the goalmouth, I was far behind. Believe me, I simply burst my lungs out and ran. The Myanmar defenders were ahead of me, but I told myself I would have to get it and I managed to get it."

Equally stunning was his strike against Kyrgyzstan in Bengaluru that set the pace for India's qualification. Chhetri began the decisive run a few



Sunil Chhetri will retire as India's all-time top scorer and most-capped player. PTI

No other Indian has scored so many crucial goals in so many make-or-break matches

yards inside his own area, dodged past three defenders, passed the ball for Jeje Lalpekhlua, and ran into the box. As Jeje sent an inch-perfect pass for Chhetri, he struck home with a coolness that left the Kyrgyzstan goalkeeper completely frozen in his spot.

Chhetri later rated it as the number-one goal in his international career. He said: "While I did score the goal, what I remember was the pass by Jeje... It was an important goal because we needed the three points to stay firmly in the qualifying race."

The list could be stretched further. But the fact remains that none of Chhetri's predecessors could strike with such unfailing regularity, not even mercurial forwards like IM Vijayan or Bhaichung Bhutia. Sceptics have often talked about the lack of international silverware in Chhetri's trophy cabinet, have questioned the quality of opposition, and ridiculed the general standard of Indian football. They have ignored the fact that football has undergone a sea change in the Asian continent in terms of both quality and competition and Chhetri faced a much smarter and more organised defence than before.

Jamail Singh had several stitches on his head and yet scored a goal in the 1962 Asian Games final — it's an age-old popular story of Indian football. Few remember the 2008 AFC Challenge Cup semi-final against Myanmar in Hyderabad under heavy rain; running on the pitch was difficult, let alone controlling the ball. It was an amazing night as an injured Chhetri, with his head heavily bandaged, leapt high in the 82nd minute to head home the winner.

It stunned his teammates, the crowd, and even the India coach Bob Houghton, who later said he didn't see a braver goal in his career. The English coach was spot-on. Indian football has rarely seen a braver soul than Sunil Chhetri.

## Need to amend legislation to ensure professional liability

CONSUMER RIGHTS  
PUSPAHA GIRIMAJI

WHILE exempting lawyers from any professional liability for deficient services under the Consumer Protection (CP) Act, a two-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has opened a Pandora's box by recommending to the Chief Justice of India that a 1995 judgment of the apex court that held a contrary view vis-à-vis medical professionals be re-considered!

Whatever may be the response of the Chief Justice, this will certainly spur not just medical professionals but many others to re-open the issue and this does not augur well for consumer protection and justice. And unless the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs acts quickly and makes the

necessary changes in the law, consumers may well lose their right under the CP Act to hold professionals, including doctors, radiographers, pharmacists, chartered accountants, engineers and architects, liable for their deficient services.

The judgment of the Supreme Court in the Bar of Indian Lawyers vs DK Gandhi case, delivered on May 14, holding that legal professionals are not accountable to consumers under the CP Act, certainly comes as a very big disappointment to consumers. Of course, the consumers' right to sue their lawyers under the CP Act was more or less extinguished way back in 2009, when the Supreme Court stayed the order of the apex consumer court in DK Gandhi vs M Mathias case delivered in 2007, in favour of the consumer. If in the last decade-and-a-half — when the appeals against this order were pending before the Supreme Court — consumers had harboured any hope of a favourable judgment, that hope has now been dashed. But even now, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, along with DK Gandhi, the complainant in the case, should file a review petition before the Supreme Court.

But what is more alarming is the view

expressed in the judgment that the Supreme Court should re-open a much hailed judgment of the apex court in the Indian Medical Association vs VP Shantha case delivered in 1995, holding that consumers can seek compensation from medical professionals for negligence under the Consumer Protection Act.

Not many consumers today are aware of the situation that existed before the consumer protection law came into force in 1986. Be it a case of a doctor operating on the wrong leg, or leaving behind a pair of scissors in the abdomen post-surgery, or administering wrong medication to a patient or conducting needless hysterectomy or C-Section, the victims or their rela-

The apex court ruling that legal professionals are not accountable to consumers comes as a big disappointment

tives in most cases suffered in silence because they could not afford to go to a civil court and fight a long legal battle to seek compensation. The Consumer Protection Act of 1986 for the first time gave them the right to seek damages for medical negligence and soon, cases began to be filed against doctors and hospitals.

The reaction from the medical professionals was quick, adverse and, sometimes, even violent. They rose as one in protest and exerted considerable pressure on the government to keep them out of the purview of the CP Act. The consumer activists had to fight hard to ensure that the government did not give in to the wishes of the doctors.

What finally settled the matter in favour of consumers was the extremely clear and lucid judgment of the Supreme Court in 1995 in the VP Shantha case. After carefully examining the provisions of the CP Act, the three-judge Bench held that the services rendered to a patient by a medical practitioner by way of consultation, diagnosis and treatment, both medicinal and surgical, would fall within the ambit of 'service' as defined in the Act. The fact that medical practitioners belonged to the medical profession and were subject to the

disciplinary control of the Medical Council of India/State Medical Council constituted under the Indian Medical Council Act would not exclude the services rendered by them from the ambit of the Act.

The present judgment of the Supreme Court, pertaining to lawyers, on the other hand, says that the legislature never intended to include professionals within the purview of the CP Act. Even if it did, the legal profession is 'sui generis' or unique in nature and cannot be equated with other professions and brought under the ambit of the CP Act. It also points out that a 'profession' cannot be equated with 'business or trade'. Nor can the services provided by professionals be treated at par with the services provided by businessmen or traders, so as to bring them under the purview of the CP Act.

This judgment is sure to re-open the debate on the jurisdiction of the consumer commissions constituted under the CP Act and consumers should now get ready to protect their interests. As a first step, they must write to the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs to bring in the necessary amendments to the CP Act to secure their right to seek compensation for negligent services rendered by professionals.



MANU MOUDGIL

**T**HE intense heatwave has broken numerous past records, putting the most vulnerable at a greater risk of health and livelihood crises. Although global heating plays a significant role, yet we cannot overlook the drastic changes in local landscape that have made our cities more hostile.

Instead of trees, ponds and open grounds, our cities are packed with concrete, asphalt and tiles. Trees cool the air by shading roads from the sun's rays and releasing moisture through transpiration, similar to how sweating cools our skin. Several studies have found that trees can reduce temperatures by 4-8 degrees, besides reducing air pollution. Larger the canopy, greater the cooling and purifying potential.

A study done in Bengaluru found that the presence of trees on roads lowered ambient air temperatures by up to 5.6 degrees, road surface temperatures by up to 27.5 degrees and sulphur dioxide levels by 65 per cent. While we are losing big traditional trees and groves to urbanisation, ornamental trees with smaller canopies and manicured gardens are becoming the mainstay of landscaping. Beyond the environmental impact, we are also losing the rich heritage of lexicon, games and folklores around trees.

**INTIMATE COMPANIONS OF PAST**

Trees have long been intertwined with our life cycles. We planted trees to mark the birth and death of family members, underscoring their utilitarian and nurturing contribution to life. Besides providing shade, fruits, wood for structures, fodder for animals, leaves and buds for cooking, nutrients for soil, they also played a crucial role in herbal medicines. The raised platforms built around sacred trees served several social, spiritual, economic and cultural uses. Even today, trees provide a cool vending space to so many vegetable sellers, food stall owners, rickshaw-pullers, drivers and barbers.

Groves of fruit trees were vibrant community spaces and several places were named after them. Ambala derives its name from *amb-wala* (land of mangoes), while Hazaribagh in Jharkhand stands for a massive mango grove with thousands of trees. In Bengaluru, Halasur got its name from jackfruit orchards and Wadala in Mumbai indicates a banyan grove. Jandwala, Tutwala, Kikarwala, Pipli, Tahliwala, Banwala are just a few of the several places named after trees. The importance of trees was not lost on kings too.

"Historically, rulers and emperors planted trees on roadsides to provide shade and fruit for weary travellers and marching armies," write Harini Nagendra and Seema Mundoli in their book *'Cities and Canopies: Trees in Indian Cities'*. "In North India, roadside trees were considered important along major highways, as they shielded passersby from the hot summer winds, or 'loo'...the winds brought dust that choked the caravans on the road and the extreme heat cracked the road. Trees on the roadsides protected the passengers as well as the road itself."

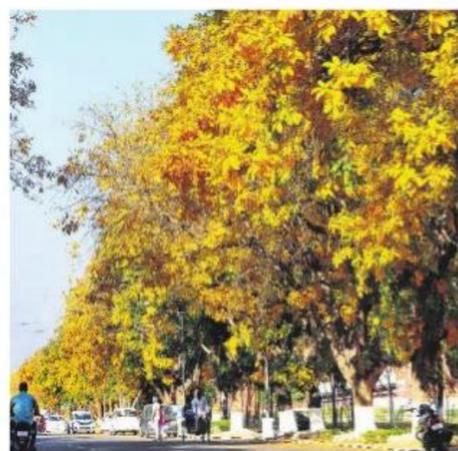
Sher Shah Suri planted large fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees along the Grand Trunk Road, a practice continued by Mughal emperors. Today, the same road (renamed as National Highway 44) bears a barren look due to continuous expansion.

**THE GREY AREA**

India is witnessing heightened construction activities at the cost of trees, farms, ponds, and scrub land, thus replacing the permeable green, blue, and brown land cover with an impervious grey of concrete or black of tarmac. The construction area in India has increased by 2.5 million hectares in the last

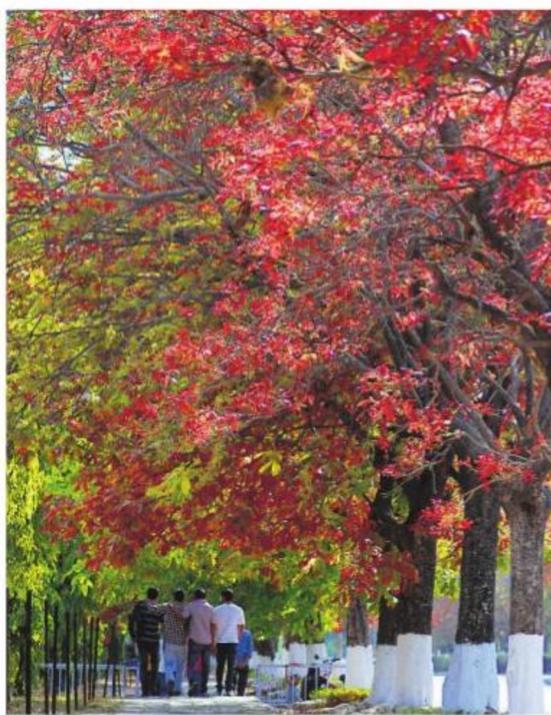
# SHADE & SURVIVAL

Restoring green canopies is essential for cooling down our cities, yet we're moving in the opposite direction



**DECREASING GREEN COVER**

In Chandigarh, open spaces declined by 39 per cent, forest and vegetation area by 4 per cent, and agricultural and shrubland reduced by 37 per cent, while the built-up area increased by 104 per cent between 1990 and 2020, found a study done by researchers at Panjab University. Overall, ecosystem services decreased by 2.54 per cent due to rapid urbanisation. Ecosystem services include climate regulation, erosion control, pollination, nutrient cycling, besides other benefits of a natural environment. It's the same story across India. Bengaluru lost 88 per cent of its forest cover and 79 per cent water cover while constructions increased by over 1,000 per cent in the past 50 years. Mumbai lost 2,028 hectares of urban tree cover between 2016 and 2021.



Avenue trees are essential for shade on hot summer days but we are losing them to ornamentals with small and sparse canopies; (below) nature walks and tree-climbing activities are helping children engage with natural surroundings. TRIBUNE FILE PHOTOS/VEEHAEN KHANNA



17 years, according to an assessment by the National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO. Another study found that around 5.6 million large trees disappeared from farms between 2018 and 2022. "As landholdings are diminishing with each generation, farmers want to maximise the harvest. Large trees, which can obstruct sunlight and impact the crop yields, are often felled to ensure better farm productivity," says KS Bains, a farmer. A greater impact is visible in cities where the rise in population has turned land into the most valuable asset, leaving little space for trees. Ajay Mittal, who runs the 'Each One, Plant One' initiative in Kolkata, says the biggest challenge for their plantation

drives is finding adequate space. "We can't plant a peepal or a banyan tree in dense areas because they grow and spread extensively. With cables, both underground and overhead, and increased built-up areas, we have to opt for trees with a smaller spread," he adds. "The widespread use of paver blocks also weakens the trees as there is little space for water to percolate and hence, rot sets in the root system. Many a time, the felled trees are not replaced by new saplings."

**CHANGING DEFINITION OF GREEN**

While we are losing out on traditional groves and big trees, ornamental trees with sparse and smaller canopies are finding favour in the plans of horticulture departments. Roy-

al palm is one such tree which tends to grow fast, but has a small canopy. These are also more susceptible to falling during storms because the roots often don't go deep enough. Several real estate projects are adding 'palms' to their names as the tree has come to be associated with luxurious living spaces. While gated communities might be adopting palm for marketing purposes, their plantation on roads and public parks raises many questions.

"Planners tend to prefer ornamental trees because they cost more and hence, maximum cut can be made from the funds. A peepal, neem or banyan can be bought within ₹20-30. Why would they prefer these trees, howsoever beneficial they might be?" asks

Rahul Mahajan, a horticulturist in Chandigarh tricity region. Another preference of city planners is for trees that grow fast and hence can add to the green cover; but these are also more vulnerable. "Chukrasia is a fast-growing tree that is currently favoured in Chandigarh. It grows within two-three years and has replaced many native trees. But it is more susceptible to storms and does not have a long life," says Mahajan.

Lack of initiative on the part of planners and developers to consult the locals while deciding upon the tree species is another reason for gaps in implementation. When they do talk to people, they restrict themselves to a certain class. "Rarely do planners consult those who live in shanties, in small homes, walking on hot treeless streets, living on the margins and depending on trees as screens behind which they can bathe or use as a toilet, for food, firewood and medicines that supplement what they cannot afford to buy," says Seema Mundoli, assistant professor of environmental sciences at Azim Premji University and co-author of *'Cities and Canopies'*.

Besides public spaces, trees are also disappearing from private houses. "People love greenery but not big trees in their backyards because these bring along leaf and fruit litter; reptiles, rodents, insects and bird droppings," says Bains. "Since most families are not making good use of a tree, it starts feeling like a nuisance, especially when the space can be used to store goods or park a car."

But all is not lost yet as there are small pockets of attitudinal change with the help of environmentalists and professionals.

**WONDER OF TREES**

There are tree groups springing up across India through which people explore trees of their cities with the help of experts. Many of the participants also veer towards activism.

"Many citizens and activists come out to protect trees — even if it is just one. But while science and activism are necessary, they will not be sufficient when it comes to protecting trees. We also need cultural, social, spiritual and economic dependence or interactions with trees," says Mundoli.

Veehaen Khanna, founder of New Delhi Nature Society, has been encouraging greater engagement with trees through nature walks and tree-climbing activities. "City kids don't climb trees because they are either scared or adults tend to prune the lower branches, thus making it impossible to climb," Khanna says. "With our tree-climbing events, children become comfortable with trees and subsequently explore various species in their neighbourhood, besides getting involved in plantation drives."

Architects are also incorporating green concepts in building plans. "Depending on the plot size, the owners choose big or small trees. Those with larger plots continue to opt for both fruit-bearing and ornamental trees. We often suggest trees that can provide shade to the house, offering natural cooling," says Siddhartha Wig, partner at The Elements, a sustainable architecture firm.

There is a large segment of people who get hooked to the wonder of trees online and start documenting them. Environmentalist Siddharth Agarwal started #fiftytrees in 2018, which led to many people participating from across India. They identified, mapped and appreciated trees in their cities. "The exercise required the participants to stop and notice the trees around them which they would have otherwise missed," says Agarwal. "Some went on to start tree walks, encouraging others to value surroundings."

Perhaps the need then is to rediscover trees as social spaces of intrigue and amusement for the changing times.

— Moudgil is an environmental writer